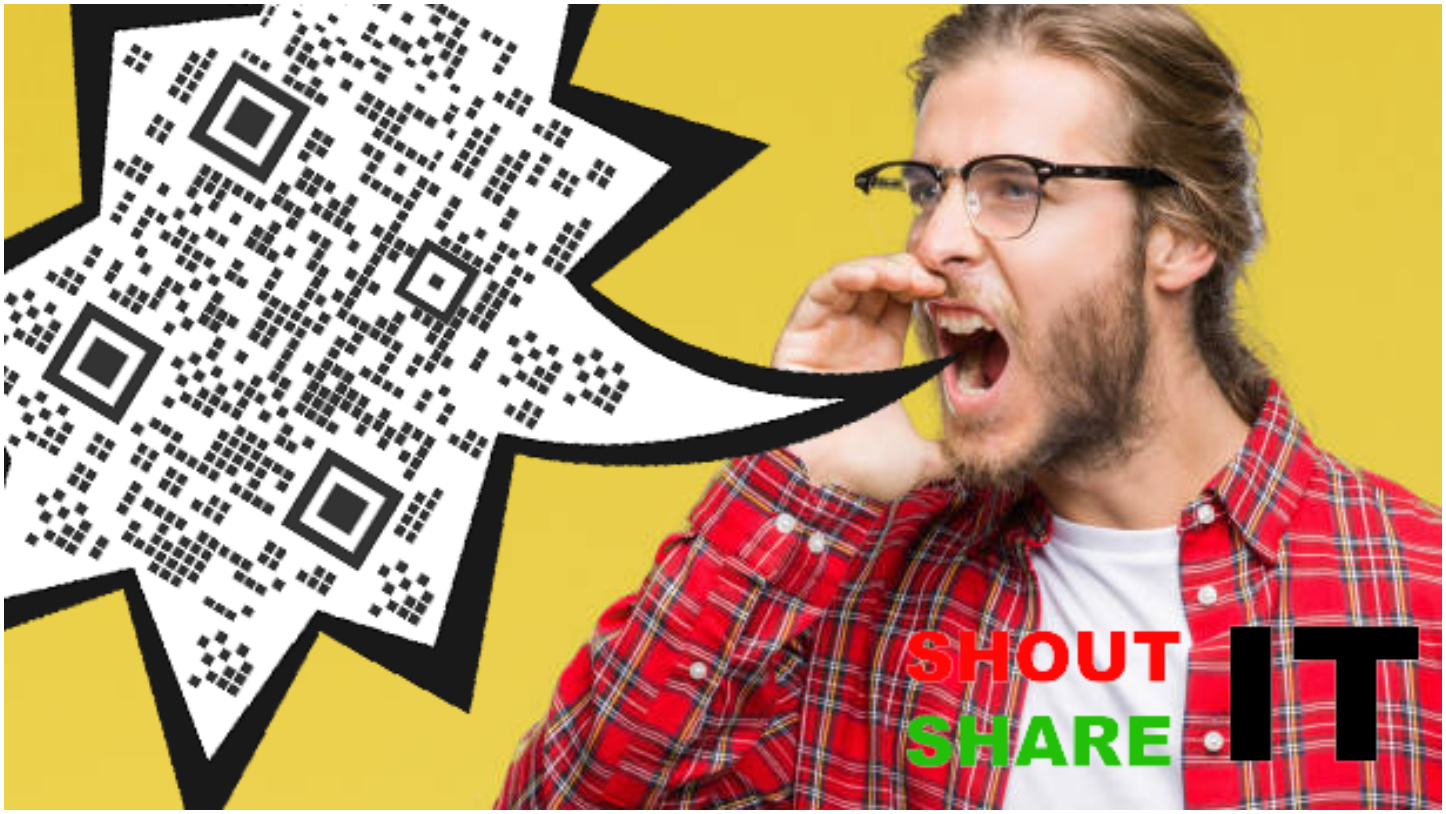
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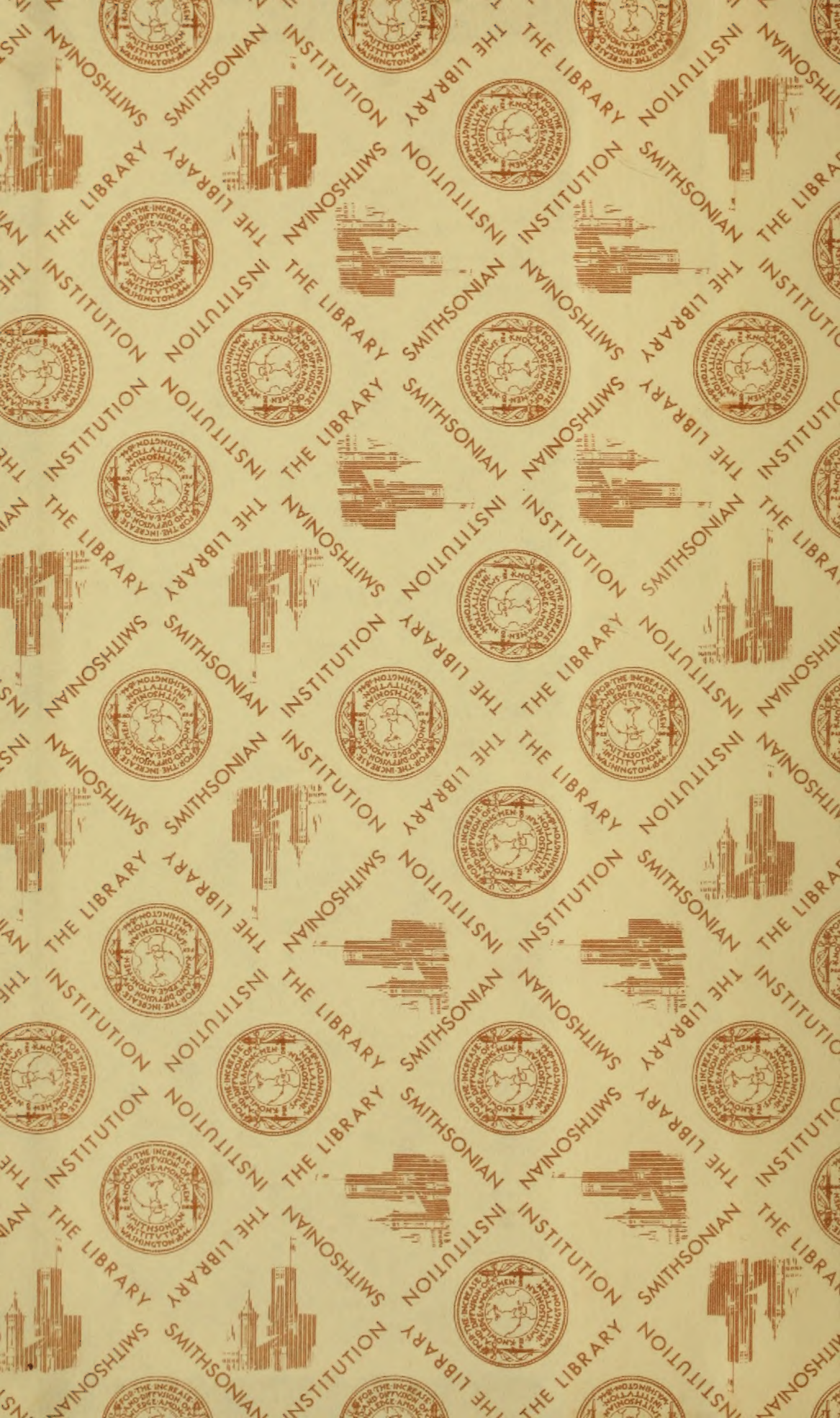
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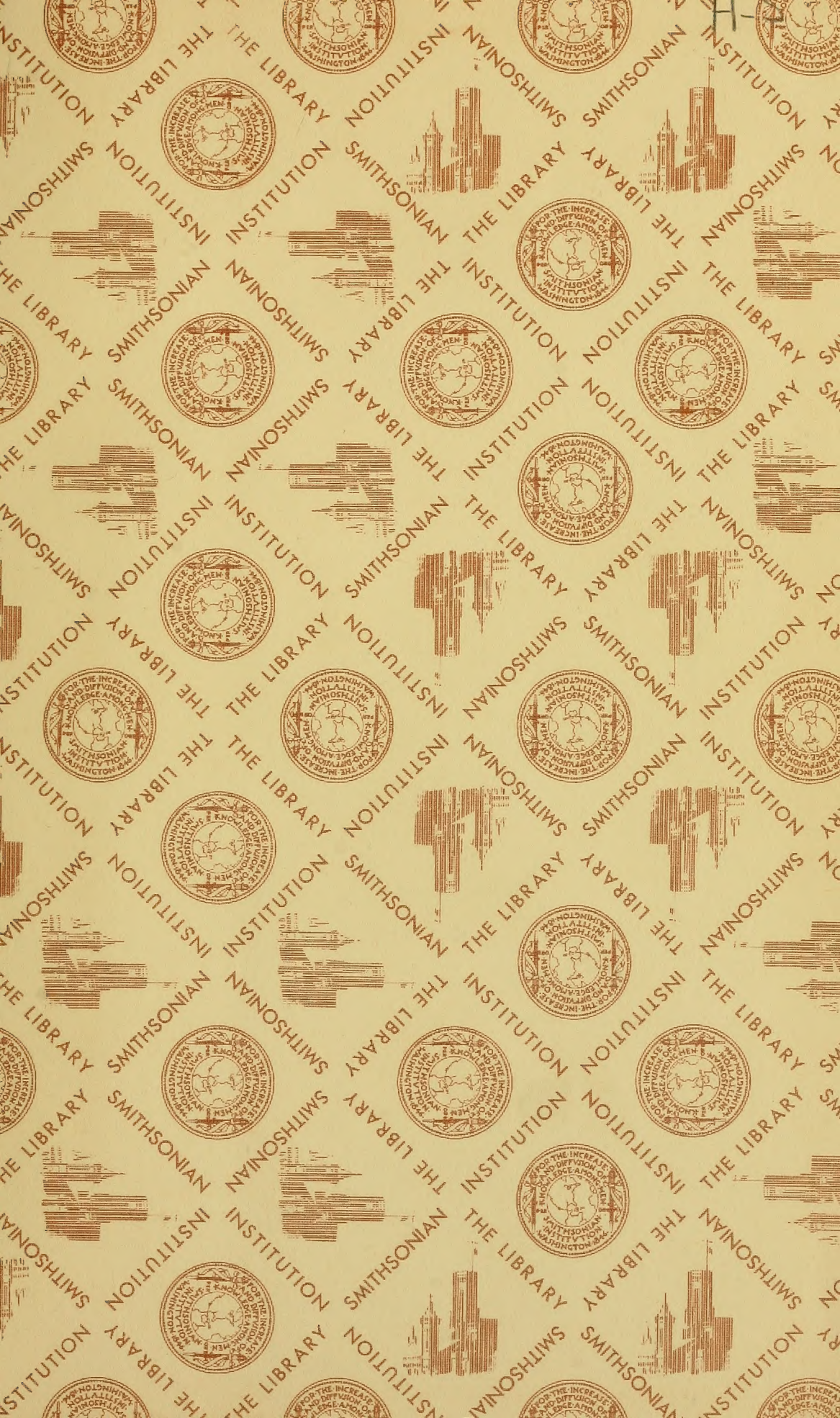
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OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

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EDITED BY

PERCY R. LOWE.

VOLUME XLI.

SESSION 1920–1921.

LONDON:

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1921.

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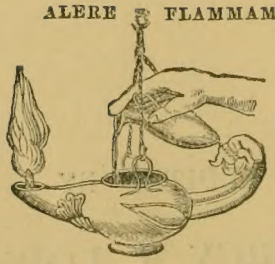

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PREFACE.

With the inauguration of the present Session it is a matter of congratulation to be able to state that the affairs of the Club would appear to have swung back to normal pre-war conditions. Indeed, one notes with pleasure that the pendulum appears to have swung rather beyond the normal, for the total number of attendances has attained the satisfactory total of 466.

This total has only once before been exceeded, viz. during the 1911–12 Session, when we note that there were 468 attendances.

A large number of new forms have been described, chiefly from the Ethiopian and Oriental regions.

We regret to record the death of Colonel R. G. Wardlaw-Ramsay, President of the Union from 1913 to 1918, and of Mr. H. M. Upcher, who was an original member of the Club from its foundation in 1882.

At the November meeting Mr. Bonhote gave a very clear and able exposition of his views on the subject of Protection; while at the June meeting the Club had the

privilege of listening to a most interesting and fascinating address given by Dr. F. M. Chapman, Curator of Birds in the American Museum of Natural History, on the subject of "The Origin of Andean Bird-Life."

(Signed) PERCY R. LOWE,
Editor.

London, June 1921.

RULES

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

(*As amended, January 12th,* 1921.)

I. This Club was founded for the purpose of facilitating the social intercourse of Members of the British Ornithologists' Union. Any Ordinary Member of that Union can become a Member of this Club on payment (to the Treasurer) of an entrance fee of *One Pound* and a subscription of *One Guinea* for the current Session. Resignation of the Union involves resignation of the Club.

II. Members who have not paid their subscriptions before the last Meeting of the Session, shall cease, *ipso facto*, to be Members of the Club, but may be reinstated on payment of arrears.

III. Ordinary Members of the British Ornithologists' Union may be introduced as Visitors at the Meetings of the Club, but every Member of the Club who introduces a Member of the B. O. U. as a Visitor (to the dinner or to the Meeting afterwards) shall pay *One Shilling* to the Treasurer *on each occasion.*

IV. No gentleman shall be allowed to attend the Meetings of the Club as a guest on more than three occasions during any single Session.

V. The Club shall meet, as a rule, on the Second Wednesday in every Month, from October to June inclusive, at such hour and place as may be arranged by the Committee. At these Meetings papers upon ornithological subjects shall be read, specimens exhibited, and discussion invited.

VI. An Abstract of the Proceedings of the B. O. C. shall be printed as soon as possible after each Meeting, under the title of the 'Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club,' and distributed gratis to every Member *who has paid his subscription.* Copies of this Bulletin shall be published and sold at *Two Shillings* each to Members.

Descriptions of new species may be added to the last page of the 'Bulletin,' although such were not communicated at the Meeting of the Club. This shall be done at the discretion of the Editor and so long as the publication of the 'Bulletin' is not unduly delayed thereby.

Any person speaking at a Meeting of the Club shall be allowed subsequently to amplify his remarks in the 'Bulletin'; but no fresh matter shall be incorporated with such remarks.

VII. The affairs of this Club shall be managed by a Committee, to consist of the Chairman, who shall be elected for five years, at the end of which period he shall not be eligible for re-election for the next term, the Editor of the 'Bulletin,' who shall be elected for five years, at the end of which period he shall not be eligible for re-election for the next term, the Secretary and Treasurer, who shall be elected for a term of one year, but shall be eligible for re-election, with four other Members, the senior of whom shall retire each year, and every alternate year that member who has attended the Committee meetings least often shall also retire. Officers and Members of the Committee shall be elected by the Members of the Club at a General Meeting, and the names of such Officers and Members of Committee, nominated for the ensuing year, shall be circulated with the preliminary notice convening the General Meeting at least two weeks before the Meeting. Should any Member wish to propose another candidate, the nomination of such, signed by at least two Members, must reach the Secretary at least one clear week before the Annual General Meeting.

Amendments to the Standing Rules of the Club, as well as very important or urgent matters, shall be submitted to Members, to be voted upon at a General Meeting.

VIII. A General Meeting of the B. O. C. shall be held on the day of the October Meeting of each Session, and the Treasurer shall present thereat the Balance-sheet and Report; and the election of Officers and Committee, in so far as their election is required, shall be held at such Meeting.

IX. Any Member desiring to make a complaint of the manner in which the affairs of the Club are conducted must communicate in writing with the Chairman, who will call a Committee Meeting to deal with the matter.

COMMITTEE 1920–1921.

W. L. Sclater, M.A., *Chairman.*
P. R. Lowe, *Editor of the 'Bulletin.'*
J. L. Bonhote *Secretary and Treasurer.*
Colonel Stevenson R. Clarke, C.B. Elected 1919.
The Lord Rothschild, Ph.D., F.R.S. (*Vice-Chairman*). Elected 1918.
The Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain, M.A. Elected 1918.
The Rev. J. R. Hale. Elected 1920.

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Adams, Ernest E.; Lloyd's, Royal Exchange, E.C. 3.
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Members are requested to keep the Secretary informed of any changes in their addresses.]

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BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCLIII.

The two-hundred-and-fiftieth Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48, Great Portland Street, W. on Wednesday, October 13th, 1920.

Chairman: W. L. Sclater, M.A.

Members present:—E. C. Stuart Baker; D. A. Bannerman; E. Bidwell; J. L. Bonhote (*Sec. and Treasurer*); P. F. Bunyard; P. A. Buxton; C. Chubb; J. P. Stephenson Clarke; H. J. Elwes; Dr. P. H. Gosse; Rev. J. R. Hale; G. R. Humphreys; C. Ingram; T. Iredale; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain; N. B. Kinnear; G. C. Lambert; Dr. H. Langton; Dr. P. R. Lowe (*Editor*); Capt. H. Lynes, R.N.; C. W. Mackworth-Praed; W. E. F. Macmillan; Dr. P. H. Manson-Bahr; G. M. Mathews; Col. R. Meinertzhagen; H. Munt; D. W. Musselwhite; T. H. Newman; M. J. Nicoll; C. E. Pearson; Capt. C. R. Pitman; A. E. Price; F. R. Ratcliff; C. B. Rickett; B. B. Riviere; D. Seth-Smith; F. W. Smalley; E. Fraser Stanford; H. Kirke Swann; C. G. Talbot-Ponsonby; Dr. C. B. Ticehurst; Dr. N. F. Ticehurst; K. G. R. Vaizey; H. M. Wallis; H. F. Witherby.

Members of the B.O.U.:—A. L. Butler; H. L. Cochrane; E. P. Chance; E. W. Harper; A. E. Jones; A. B. Percival; W. E. Renaut; H. Whistler; A. F. R. Wollaston.

Guests of the Club:—J. H. Fleming; A. Haagner.

Guests:—D. W. Seth-Smith; J. B. Sargent; W. Campbell-Smith; T. Wells.

Mr. D. A. Bannerman exhibited and described seven new birds from West Africa, as follows:—

Micropus æquatorialis lowei, subsp. nov.

A very distinct subspecies, which differs from the typical *M. æquatorialis æquatorialis* in the following particulars (compared with an adult male No. 441 obtained at Aela, S. Abyssinia, 3.ii.01):—

Entire upper-parts deep blackish-brown, many shades darker than the Abyssinian birds and also much darker than Shelley's *M. alfredi*, having a distinct gloss on the plumage; outer edges of the primaries black, inner webs dark brown. General colour of the under-parts blackish-brown; throat and chin white, this white patch clearly defined and not gradually merging into the chest as in typical *æquatorialis*. The patch extends 28 mm. from the base of the bill on to the throat, and is 20 mm. in width; chest, sides of the breast and belly, flanks, and under tail-coverts dark brown, the middle of the breast and belly white, each feather subterminally barred with dark brown and becoming dusky brown at the base. [In *M. æ. æquatorialis* these breast-feathers are dusky brown, broadly barred subterminally with dark brown and narrowly fringed with white.]

Under surface of the wing uniform blackish-brown, the feathers running down the outer margin of the wing narrowly tipped with dirty white.

Bill black; iris brown; feet blackish.

Measurements:—Bill 10 mm., wing 204, tarsus 15.

Type in the British Museum, 1920.6.15.196, ♀ ad.,

No. 527 (breeding). Mahera, Rokelle River, Sierra Leone, 21st April, 1920. Collected by Mr. Willoughby P. Lowe.

This race is named in honour of the collector; it is the first and only representative of the Great Equatorial Swift which has ever been obtained in tropical West Africa, north of Angola.

Sarothrura bohmi danei, subsp. nov.

Male. Most nearly allied to *Sarothrura bohmi*, Rchw., but differs from it in several well-marked particulars. In each case the chin and upper throat are white, but in *S. b. danei* the white covers a smaller area. The rufous of the head, which is perhaps a shade darker in *S. b. danei*, does not extend so far on to the nape as it does in *S. bohmi*. In the new form, irregularly mixed with the rufous feathers of the neck, are two or three white feathers narrowly edged with black and with the black base continued down the middle of the feather in a comparatively broad black line. These feathers appear to be quite new, and are very conspicuous. I cannot account for their presence. At first sight it would appear that the Rail is in the course of exchanging a rufous neck for that of a streaked black-and-white one, but I am of opinion that the reverse is the case, and that the barred feathers are the remains of the immature dress.

The principal difference between *S. b. danei* and *S. b. bohmi* is to be seen in the under-parts, the under-surface being very much blacker in the new race. In fact, whereas in *S. b. bohmi* the breast, belly, and flanks are mainly white streaked with black, in *S. b. danei* the under-parts are mainly black streaked with white. The upper-parts are of a deeper black in *S. b. danei*, and both the secondaries and coverts are narrowly and subterminally edged with pure white.

The specimen of *S. b. danei* has every appearance of being an adult male, unless we consider the odd black and white feathers of the throat indicate that the bird has not attained its final plumage. For the present I prefer to unite it with *S. b. bohmi*, as it seems to be very closely related to that bird. The legs and feet of *S. b. bohmi* are distinctly heavier

than in *S. b. danei*, although there is no appreciable difference in measurement. The wing is, however, 3 mm. shorter: I have compared it with a specimen of *S. b. bohmi* from Cameroon, No. 5639 in the British Museum collection.

The measurements of *S. b. danei* are as follows:—Total length in the flesh (from tip of bill to tip of toe) 6½ inches. Bill 13 mm., wing 84, tail 34, tarsus 24.

Iris dark brown, eyelids chestnut; bill, upper mandible black, lower Indian purple; feet brownish plumbeous.

Type. ♂ (in breeding condition), Reg. No. 1920.5.15.204, in the British Museum. Caught at sea on board H.M.S. 'Dwarf' (Capt. Dane, R.N.), lat. 10° 0′ N., long. 15° 30′ W., off the coast of French Guinea, 14th June, 1920. Willoughby P. Lowe, collector.

Named in honour of Captain Dane, R.N., to whose generosity and interest in Ornithology we are indebted at the Natural History Museum for a fine collection of West African birds made this year by Mr. W. P. Lowe, while Capt. Dane's guest on the 'Dwarf.'

Obs. There is a specimen of what I believe to be this new Rail in the British Museum obtained at Bo, in Sierra Leone, by Robin Kemp in 1904, erroneously recorded at the time as *S. bonapartei*.

Sylviella flaviventris nigeriæ, subsp. nov.

Evidently a local race of *S. flaviventris flaviventris* from the Gold Coast, and is distinguished from it by having the head greyer, less brown, and in having the back slightly more olive. The distinguishing shades are difficult to describe, but the difference is perfectly apparent when the two races are examined side by side. The under-parts are very similar, but in the new race the white of the belly extends further up towards the breast. Three specimens were obtained.

Bill, upper mandible dark horn-, lower flesh-colour; iris reddish-brown; feet dark flesh-colour.

Bill 11 mm., wing 49, tarsus 17.

Type in the British Museum, ♂?, Reg. No. 1920.3.10.3.

Iju Water-works, nr. Lagos, S. Nigeria, 29th Dec., 1919. W. P. Lowe, collector. A note on the label says that the bird was shot whilst singing in a cocoa-tree.

Erythrocercus maccalli nigeriæ, subsp. nov.

Entire under surface of body buffish-white, lacking the deep buff chin, throat, and breast of *E. maccalli maccalli*. The upper parts are washed with olive-brown. The crown of the head is of a deeper shade of chestnut and is distinctly less bright in colour.

Three specimens were obtained at Lagos, S. Nigeria: two adult males and an immature bird.

Bill 9 mm., wing 49, tarsus 15.

Upper mandible pale brown, lower whitish flesh-colour; iris pale yellow; feet flesh-colour.

Type in the British Museum, ♂, Reg. No. 1920.3.10.2. Iju Water-works, nr. Lagos, S. Nigeria, 9th Feb., 1920. W. P. Lowe, collector.

Mr. Lowe remarks on the label that it is a very lively little bird, that it goes about in pairs or in families of six or eight like the Long-tailed Tit, and has a note like a *Zosterops*.

Obs. A specimen in the British Museum in poor condition obtained by Major Pearse in Western Liberia seems to belong to the new form here described.

Turdinus strenuipes, sp. nov.

Adult male. Most nearly allied to *Turdinus puveli* Salvadori, but differs from that species in having the head and back olive-brown instead of rufous; the crown is darker than the back and is not washed with rufous. The upper surface of *T. strenuipes* closely resembles the upper parts of *T. fulvescens* in coloration. On the under surface the new species mostly resembles *T. puveli*, but the chin and throat, as also the belly, are pure white; the breast, soft feathers of the flanks, and under tail-coverts are pale buffish-brown, palest on the breast, darker on the flanks and under tail-coverts. The tail-feathers are brown washed with rufous,

with indications of fine bands on the upper surface. The bill is heavy, resembling that of *T. pureli*; the legs and feet are exceptionally heavy and at once attract attention on this account.

The measurements and soft parts are as follows :—

Total length in the flesh $7\frac{3}{4}$ inches; bill (exposed culmen) 16 mm., wing 85, tail 67, tarsus 33.

Bill, upper mandible black, lower whitish; iris light brown; legs and feet whitish flesh-colour; claws white.

Type in the British Museum, ♂ ad., Reg. No. 1920.3.10.1. Water-works, nr. Lagos, Southern Nigeria, 15th Feb., 1920. W. P. Lowe, collector.

The bird had been feeding on ants and other insects, and scratches about for these in the dense bush.

Andropadus indicator ussheri, subsp. nov.

The race inhabiting the Gold Coast is undoubtedly separable from both *A. indicator indicator* and from *A. indicator leucurus* of Cassin. From the typical species it differs in the more olive coloration of the upper parts and in the darker, more grey under surface, with much less buff on the belly. The ten specimens before me from the Gold Coast are generally smaller than typical specimens, although the wing-measurements overlap.

The measurements of this specimen are as follows :— Wing 95 mm. (barely), bill 15, tarsus 18.

The type in the British Museum, No. 76.5.23.627. Collected by Ussher at Fantee.

Obs. I recognise three forms of *A. indicator* from West Africa : the new race described above from the Gold Coast and, in addition, *A. indicator indicator* from Gaboon and *A. i. leucurus* from Sierra Leone and Liberia.

Macrosphenus flavicans angolensis, subsp. nov.

This is a short-billed race of *M. flavicans flavicans*, and this is the only noticeable difference. It is, however, very striking and is perfectly constant. I have had seventeen examples of the typical form and there are five examples of the new race.

The bill of the type-specimen measures : exposed culmen 15 mm., from the tip to the gape 19 mm., and ranges in the five specimens from 14·5–15 mm. exposed culmen—on an average, 4 mm. shorter than typical specimens.

The soft parts are given by the collector as follows :— Iris lemon-yellow ; feet greenish-blue ; bill, upper mandible greenish-black, lower mandible purplish-grey with dark greenish-grey streak along each side.

The type is an adult male in the British Museum, Reg. No. 1910.5.6.670. Shot at N'Dala Tando, N. Angola, by Dr. Ansorge, on the 26th October, 1908.

Mr. Bannerman also exhibited and described a new *Cisticola* from Cameroon, West Africa, and said :—Mr. G. L. Bates hes recently returned to England on a visit, and has brought with him a small collection of birds, some collected on Cameroon Mountain and a few from Akonolinga, a place on the Nyong River, in the northern interior of Cameroon. I name this new form

Cisticola nuchalis sclateri, subsp. nov.,

in honour of Mr. W. L. Sclater, and characterise it as follows :—

Similar to *C. nuchalis nuchalis,* but the crown of the head a deeper and duller chestnut and almost uniform, with only a faint indication of the heavy spotting of the crown which is such a conspicuous feature in typical *nuchalis.* There is no indication of pale chestnut on the nape, which is uniform like the crown. The general colour of the upper parts, back, coverts, wings, and tail is much duller ; the edgings to the feathers instead of being buff are chestnut ; and the heavy black middles to the feathers of the back do not in consequence stand out conspicuously as they do in *C. n. nuchalis.* The underside is of a much deeper buff, inclining almost to rufous on the flanks and under tail-feathers.

Bill (exposed culmen) 14 mm., wing 65, tail 55, tarsus 27.

Iris light brown : feet flesh-colour ; bill black above greyish white beneath

Type. No. 5234, ♂ ad., in the British Museum Collection. Akonolinga, River Nyong, Cameroon, 8.i.13. G. L. Bates, collector.

Range. Northern Cameroon and Northern Nigeria.

Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker proposed new names for certain birds on the Indian list, and described certain new species and subspecies as follows :—

Ægithaliscus concinna iredalei, nom. nov.

Vigors's name of *Parus erythrocephalus* (1831) for the Red-headed Tit is invalidated by *Parus erythrocephalus* of Linné, Syst. Nat. 10th ed. p. 191 (1758). The next oldest specific name is *concinna*, from *Psaltria concinna* of Gould (B. of Asia, pt. vii. 1855), a Chinese race of this species, and a new subspecific name must be given.

I propose to call it as above after Mr. T. Iredale, who has given me much assistance in nomeclature whilst working at my 'Catalogue of Indian Birds.'

The *type-locality* of *Æ. erythrocephalus* was merely "Himalayas," and this I restrict to Simla.

Chloropsis aurifrons davidsoni, nom. nov.

Turdus malabaricus Gmelin, p. 837, is preoccupied by the same author, p. 816 (1788). The oldest specific name appears to be *Phyllornis aurifrons* Temminck, Pl. Col. 484, 1829, but there is no subspecific name available, and I therefore propose to call it *davidsoni* after Mr. J. Davidson, a keen ornithological worker for many years in the West of India.

Type-locality for *C. aurifrons* was given *in errore* as Sumatra, corrected by Sharpe to India, and may now be urther restricted to Cachar.

Hypothymis azurea sykesi, nom. nov.

Muscicapa cærulecephala of Sykes is preoccupied by *Muscicapa cæruleocephala* of Scopoli, Del Flor. et Faun.

p. 95, 1786. As there appears to be no other name available for this race, I name it after Sykes.

The *type-locality* is Deccan.

Pellorneum ruficeps jonesi, subsp. nov.

This form is nearest to *P. r. mandellii* and has the black markings to the nape even more highly developed. The head is, however, much less red and more brown, the black stipplings on the forehead are more numerous and highly developed. Generally speaking, the tint above and below is less rufescent and more olive, and the spots on the breast are much darker than in the average specimen of *mandellii*.

The bill and legs also were darker in life than they are in any other race of *ruficeps*.

Type. Adult ♂, No. 568 in Brit. Mus. A. E. Jones coll. 26. xii. 19.

Type-locality. Kalka, Baghat State, N.W. Himalayas, 2000 feet.

This bird is so distinct from any other specimen in the very big series in the British Museum Collection that, though Mr. Jones has procured but two specimens, I have no hesitation in giving them a name after its discoverer.

Wing 74 mm. The wing of *P. r. mandellii* runs from 68 to 74 mm. in Nepal and 72 to 77 mm. in Assam.

Mr. Jones has presented the type to the Natural History Museum.

Turnix javanica leggei, subsp. nov.

This form is very near *Turnix javanica javanica*, the typical form from Java, but the latter is a darker, blacker bird, with lighter chestnut below; both races have a well-defined nuchal patch.

In size they are practically the same.

Type. ♀, 1916. 9. 20. 505 Brit. Mus. Coll. A. L. Butler, Cocowatta, 16. x. 94.

Habitat. Ceylon only.

Mr. Stuart Baker also described the following new genera, species, and subspecies from a collection of birds collected by Mr. E. G. Herbert in Siam :—

Nigravis herberti, genus et sp. nov.

Whole plumage very dark rich brown; the crown, forehead, lores, and a line under the eye black; the shafts of the crown-feathers highly glazed and showing up well. Tail black showing very faint narrow bars in certain lights; chin and throat paler and upper breast tinged with grey owing to the grey bases of the feathers showing through.

"Eyes brown; beak bluish white; legs and claws blackish brown" (*Herbert*).

Length of wing 78 mm.; tail, central tail-feathers 72 mm., outermost 56 mm.; bill at front 18 mm.; tarsus 28 mm.

This bird undoubtedly belongs to the *Timeliidæ*, or *Turdoidæ* as they must now be called, but I know of no genus in that family with which it can be placed. The wing is typically rounded, the first feather being about half the length of the 6th and the 6th to the 10th are subequal and longest, whilst the outermost secondary is only 2 mm. shorter.

The tail-feathers are broad and graduated and the tarsus fairly stout but not very long; the bill is like that of *Ethostoma* (*Turdinus*), but the nostril is completely covered by an operculum, and the feathers on either side of the base of the bill grow right up to the posterior edge of the nostril. There are three very short rictal bristles and the feathers of the chin have fine hair-like tips.

Type. No. 213, ♂, Ban Sao, Camp no. 42, Siam, 24th Feb., 1920.

Type-locality. Ban Sao, Siam.

Named after Mr. E. J. Herbert, the collector.

Picus rubricollaris, sp. nov.

Description, adult male. Whole crown brilliant crimson-scarlet changing to pure scarlet on the nape, the feathers of the crown with black bases which show through in places; sides of the head dull olive-green; a line of red running from above the gape to the neck and a tiny line of reddish

above lores; chin and throat greenish-white; back to end of tail-coverts bright, but dark, yellowish-green; tail black, greenish at the base and with broken white bars on the central rectrices; lesser and median wing-coverts and inner secondaries like the back, but with a bronze sheen and inner webs blackish; greater coverts, primaries, and outer secondaries blackish-brown barred with white; upper breast dull crimson-red, forming with the scarlet nape a complete red collar, the two colours blending on the sides of the neck; lower breast dark green, abdomen, flanks, and under tail-coverts lighter, more yellowish-green with white and pale yellowish markings.

"Eyes reddish-brown; bill black; legs and claws yellow" (*Herbert*).

Wing 136 mm., bill from front 36 mm., tarsus 30 mm.

The female is like the male, but has the crown dark green; the collar is less strongly developed on the upper breast, but is equally intense scarlet on the nape.

"Eyes reddish-brown; bill black; legs green, claws brown" (*Herbert*).

Wing 139 mm.; bill from front 34·5 mm.; tarsus 29·5 mm.

Types. ♂, no. 262, Ban Hoi Mak, Camp no. 39, Siam, 29. 2. 20; ♀, Muong Lep, Camp no. 15, Siam, 16. 1. 20.

Schœniparus rufigularis major, subsp. nov.

Similar to *S. rufigularis rufigularis*, but larger, wing 63 mm. as against a maximum of 61 and an average of 58 mm. in that bird. The upper parts are a brighter rufous and the crown is markedly paler and brighter; the white supercilium is larger and the chestnut collar on the throat paler and interrupted, a feature seldom seen in the typical form.

Although there is only a single specimen in Mr. Herbert's collection, there is a very large series for comparison, with no one of which does it agree. This, combined with the great extension of its hitherto recorded range, induces me to name it.

Type. ♂, no. 94, Herbert Coll., Pak Mat, Camp 18, Siam, 19. 1. 20.

Mr. Stuart Baker on behalf of Mr. Robinson also described :—

Molpastes atricapillus klossi, subsp. nov.

Differs from the typical *Molpastes atricapillus atricapillus* Vieill., from China, in being smaller. General colour above paler, almost pale wood-brown, the feathers of the mantle distinctly margined with pale whitish-brown, giving a striated appearance ; lower rump almost uniform white, this colour continued on the upper tail-coverts ; some of the longest upper tail-coverts pale wood-brown at the tip ; ear-coverts silvery-white, slightly tinged with fawn-colour anteriorly ; extreme portion of cheeks blackish like the chin and lores ; centre of throat and middle of abdomen almost pure white ; remainder of underparts of the body, except the under tail-coverts which are bright scarlet-red, pale whitish-brown.

Type. Adult male from Koon Tan, Northern Siam. Collected on the 10th May, 1914, by Nils Gyldenstolpe.

Total length 195 mm., wing 92·5 mm., tail 93 mm., tarsus 20 mm., bill from gape 22 mm.

Series examined. 21 specimens (11 ♂♂, 7 ♀♀, 3 im.) from the mountain regions of Northern Siam.

Dimensions. The wings vary between 88·0 to 93·4 mm. in the males and 85·5 to 86·7 mm. in the females, against 98 mm. in the males of the typical race.

Hab. Northern Siam and possibly the adjacent parts of British Burma.

Dr. C. B. Ticehurst exhibited a new species of Reed-Warbler from the marshes of Lower Mesopotamia, which he proposed to call

Acrocephalus babylonicus, sp. nov.

This remarkable Reed-Warbler, of which I have examined five specimens, appears to be entirely new, and as it does not obviously seem to be a race of any known species, I prefer at present to treat it as a new species. It has the same-shaped bill as *A. stentoreus* though smaller, but the wing-formula

of *A. arundinaceus*–that is to say, the second primary is only a little shorter than the third (the longest) and reaches between the third and fourth. The first primary is minute, 6 mm. longer than the longest primary-covert. The tail is less rounded than in *A. stentoreus* or *A. brunnescens*, the outer feathers being 5–8·5 mm. shorter than the centrals instead of about 14–16 mm. as in *A. brunnescens*. The third primary only is emarginate on the outer web, unlike *A. brunnescens*, in which the third and fourth primaries are emarginate. The tail is shorter than in any race of *A. arundinaceus* or *A. stentoreus*, markedly so. The colour of the upper parts is more olivaceous-green than in either of these, and the throat is pure white with no obsolete streaks. Under wing-coverts and axillaries paler, almost white. In autumn, judging from the poor specimens we have, the upper parts are more rufescent than in spring birds.

Wing 78–83·5 mm., tail 61·5–65, bill from base 19·5–22, tarsus 23·5–24.

Iris brown, bill horn-colour, tongue bright yellow, legs and feet plumbeous.

Type-locality. Basra, Lower Mesopotamia.

Type-specimen. In Brit. Mus., No. 165, ♂, Basra, 22.iv. 1917. Collected by Major R. E. Cheeseman and Sir Percy Cox.

Distribution. Basra, where it evidently breeds, and the marshes of Akkarkuf near Baghdad, where Capt. C. R. Pitman obtained it in August. Perhaps sedentary.

Dr. Ticehurst also described a new subspecies of Sparrow from Cashmere on behalf of Mr. Hugh Whistler, M.B.O.U.:—

Passer domesticus parkini, subsp. nov.

Type. ♂, No. 3182, ex Hugh Whistler Coll., 5. iv. 1920. Now in Brit. Mus.

Type-locality. Srinagar. Cashmere.

Male. Distinguished from *Passer domesticus indicus* Jard. & Selby by the richer chestnut of the mantle, scapulars, and lesser wing-coverts, and by the considerably larger size and heavier bill; bill from skull 14–15, wing 77·5–83, tail 57–62·5, tarsus 18·5–20 mm.

Female. Similar to the female of *P. d. indicus*, but larger and with a heavier bill. Wing 75–78·5 mm. ; tail 53–61 mm.

Distribution. The Valley of Cashmere, and probably other areas north of the outer ranges of the Western Himalayas. A winter visitor to the plains of Punjab and Sindh.

Nidification. Said by Davidson ('Ibis,' 1899, p. 29) to breed in holes along the banks of the Jhelum River.

Named in honour of Mr. Thomas Parkin, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., etc.

The Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain exhibited a series of eight clutches of eggs of the new species of *Acrocephalus* described above by Dr. Ticehurst, all taken in the marshes near Basra by Major Logan Home and Mr. A. G. Tomlinson. When the nests and eggs were first received, they were at once found to differ considerably from those of *A. arundinaceus* and *A. stentoreus*. The nests are comparatively small and slight, about 3–3½ in. in depth, and about the same diameter, totally unlike the deep and bulky edifices constructed by the Great and Clamorous Reed-Warblers. The eggs, three or more (usually four) in number, are also smaller, averaging 19·5 × 14·6 mm. (23 measured), and are very variable in colouring, some closely approaching the type of *A. palustris* ; while others would almost pass for *A. scirpaceus*, and two sets have a pale bluish-grey ground and irregular streaks, spots, and blotches, chiefly at the large end, of varying depths of sepia and ochreous-brown.

Mr. Jourdain also exhibited 11 eggs of the remarkable light type of egg of *Charadrius alexandrinus*, taken by Captain P. W. Munn in Mallorca, and identified by him with the greatest care. These eggs closely resemble the accepted type of *C. dubius*. A clutch of three eggs of *C. dubius*, taken by Colonel Sparrow in Southern Algeria, boldly marked with black spots and with the dark ground, were also shown, and had also been carefully identified. It seems evident that though the ordinary types of eggs of the two species are very different, varieties of each may be found closely resembling the other, for in both the above-mentioned cases only one species of *Charadrius* was present.

Captain Lynes, who returned last June from Darfur, our recently acquired Province of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, said that as he shortly intended leaving England to continue work there, he would now only invite attention to several of its new forms of birds, in the hope of being able to give a good account of the Ornithology of Darfur after his coming expedition.

The majority of his present collections came from Jebel Marra and the country lying to the eastward of those mountains, which contains El Fasher, the capital of the Province.

Captain Lynes drew attention to the isolated geographical position of the higher altitudes of Jebel Marra, an important massif occupying some 800 square miles of the centre of Darfur, much of which area lay from about 7000 to 10,000 feet above sea-level. He described the following birds as new :—

Mirafra rufa, sp. nov.

"Cinnamon Bush-Lark."

In general appearance this new Bush-Lark might be considered an ally of *M. gilletti* Sharpe or of *M. africanoides harei* Roberts, Ann. Transvaal Mus. v. 1917, but it differs essentially from both.

Type. In the British Museum. An adult male from Central Darfur, Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, collected 8th May, 1920, by Captain Lynes. Altitude 3000 feet.

Description of type. Above, including upper tail-coverts, pale cinnamon-brown, more or less lightly streaked with narrow dark brown shaft-stripes—heaviest on head and nearly absent on lower back and rump. Below, including lower tail-coverts and flanks, light ochraceous-buff, palest (nearly white) on chin and throat, deepest on crop and flanks. Crop and lower throat lightly and softly spotted with ochraceous-tawny feather-centres.

Wing. Primaries and secondaries clove-brown, narrowly margined on both webs with pale cinnamon-brown ; innermost two or three secondaries heavily marked above with pale cinnamon-brown, thus harmonizing the dominant colour of the folded wing with that of the back.

Tail-feathers black, except the central pair which are uniform cinnamon-brown, the next pair whose outer webs are mostly cinnamon-brown, and the outer pair which are tipped and broadly margined on the outer web with light cinnamon-brown. Sides of head and neck, including a well-defined superciliary streak, light ochraceous-buff, with

(*a*) A narrow stripe of cinnamon-brown through the eye below the superciliary streak,

(*b*) Ear-coverts of mottled cinnamon-brown,

(*c*) A small moustache of triangular dark brown spots.

Legs, feet, and claws pale clay-colour, with a dull pink tinge. Bill, upper mandible horn with pale cutting-edge, lower mandible dull whitish tinged dull horn. Iris pale sepia.

Dimensions of the type. Wing 87 mm., tail 67, tarsus 21, bill 13.

Female similar to male but rather smaller.

Six specimens collected in Central Darfur:—

Three males: Wings 86–89 mm., tails 65–67.

Three females: Wings 80–84 mm., tails 60–65.

Obs. The dark streaking of the upper plumage varies considerably in depth of colour and quantity.

Anthus sordidus jebelmarræ, subsp. nov.

"Jebel Marra Pipit."

One of the "*sordidus*" group with the long bills and dappled or streaked backs (as grouped by Dr. Hartert, Nov. Zool. xxiv. p. 458).

It is nearest to *A. sordidus hararensis* Neum., but differs at first glance in almost entirely lacking chest-spots—*i. e.*, nearly uniform below—and in the whole plumage being suffused with bright tawny-olive.

The tail is very dark, almost black (instead of brown), and the light notch in the penultimate tail-feather is reduced to a tiny mark at its extreme tip.

Type. In the British Museum. An adult male from Jebel Marra, Darfur, collected 12th April, 1912, by Captain Lynes. Altitude 6000 feet.

Dimensions of the type. Wing 92 mm., tail 75, tarsus 26, bill 16.

Female similar to male but a trifle smaller.

Eight specimens (one unsexed) collected in Jebel Marra :—
Four adult males : Wings 91 to 95 mm., tails 72 to 74.
Four adult females : Wings 87 to 91 mm., tails 72 to 73.

Amadina fasciata furensis, subsp. nov.

"Darfur Cut-throat Finch."

Near *A. fasciata fasciata* (Gm.), but in the male the colour is generally of a warmer tint ("Mikado brown," *Ridgway*), the dark vermiculations on the upperside considerably less, almost absent in the centre of the back ; and below with a number of fine blackish vermiculations across the lower breast, instead of V- or crescent-shaped marks. The crimson of the throat is considerably lighter in colour.

Female. Much the same as "*fasciata.*"

Type. In the British Museum. An adult male from Derrat, 50 miles east of El Fasher, collected by Captain Lynes on 9th March, 1920.

Dimensions of the type :—Wing 68 mm., tail 41, tarsus 15, bill 9·5.

Five specimens collected in Darfur :—
Three adult males : Wings 68 mm., tails 40–42.
Two adult females : Wings 67–69 mm., tails 40–42.

Saxicola torquata jebelmarræ, subsp. nov.

"Jebel Marra Stonechat."

The first known *breeding* Stonechat of the "*S. torquata*" species in the Sudan, those from the Blue and White Nile districts and Abyssinia being apparently all wintering examples of *S. torquata maura* (Pall.), which breeds in Persia, etc.

This form much resembles "*maura*," but has the tail-feathers all (or practically all) black at the base. It is also not at all unlike the Madagascar *P. torquata sybilla*, but is rather larger, and the male has a somewhat more ginger than chestnut tint in the "red" of the underside.

Type. In the British Museum. An adult male from Jebel

Marra, Darfur, collected on 6th April, 1920, by Captain Lynes. Altitude 8000 feet.

Dimensions of the type :—Wing 70 mm., tail 55, tarsus 19·5, bill 11.

Nine specimens collected in Jebel Marra :—

Seven adult males : Wings 70–71 mm., tails 51–56.

Two adult females : Wings 67–68 mm., tails 51–56.

Myrmecocichla æthiops sudanensis, subsp. nov.

"Sudan Ant-Chat."

Nearest to *M. æthiops æthiops* Cab., from Senegal, but much smaller (Black Chat size instead of Thrush size). In full adult plumage both sexes of *M. æ. æthiops* become almost uniform black ; but at all ages *M. æ. sudanensis* apparently remains snuff-brown, with conspicuous light dappled head and hind neck. Below, *æthiops* has a slight mottling of light feather borders from chin to upper breast, whereas in *sudanensis* the mottling is very marked down to the crop.

Type. In the British Museum. An adult male from El Fasher, Darfur, collected on 13th March, 1920, by Captain Lynes.

Dimensions of the type :—Wing 101 mm., tail 68, tarsus 31, bill 15.

Fourteen specimens collected in Darfur and Western Kordofan :—

(Four not sexed with certainty.)

Six adult males : Wings 99–102 mm., tails 64–70.

Four adult females : Wings 98–106 mm., tails 64–71.

Prionops concinnata ochracea, subsp. nov.

"Ochraceous Helmet-Shrike."

A new form of the "*concinnata*" group (as described by Sclater in Shelley's 'Birds of Africa,' viz. with the white wing-patch and incurving sides of the helmet abaft all).

This form has a similar colour-pattern to "*concinnata*" of the Eastern Sudan, Bahr-el-Ghazal, etc., but has no pure grey and practically no pure white, and looks as if its whole plumage had been painted over with a wash of

light ochraceous-buff. The crown, nape, and ear-coverts are very distinct in being pinkish cinnamon with brown and black tints instead of different shades of ash-grey.

Type. In the British Museum. An adult male from Nahud, Western Kordofan, collected on 22nd May, 1920, by Captain Lynes.

Dimensions of the type :—Wing 114 mm., tail 94, tarsus 27, bill 21.

Two of a party of five collected in Western Kordofan.

Adult female. Similar to male.

Col. Meinertzhagen described the following new subspecies :—

Corvus cornix minos, subsp. nov.

Nearest to *Corvus c. pallescens* Mad. from Cyprus, but with a longer wing and a deeper and longer culmen. Wing of four males 316–327 and of one female 313 mm. Length of culmen of males 55–61 mm., and depth 20–22, whereas the wings of *C. c. pallescens* vary from 294–299, length of culmen 49–56 and depth 17·5–19.

Type in the Tring Museum, ♂, Candia, Crete, 13. v. 20.

I name this Hooded Crow after the ancient and celebrated King of Crete.

Garrulus glandarius cretorum, subsp. nov.

This race belongs to the streak-headed Jays, as in *G. g. glandarius*, and not to the black-headed Jays of Armenia, Asia Minor, etc. It is nearest to *G. ichnusæ* of Sardinia, but has a slightly redder hind neck and apparently a greyer back. Similar in size to *G. ichnusæ*. The differences in colour are more noticeable in the juvenile plumage than among adults.

Compared with the typical race, they are smaller and less vinous on both the upper and lower parts. Compared with *G. glazneri* from Cyprus, they have a much longer culmen and a considerable amount of white on the forehead, *G. glazneri* having no trace of white. Compared with *G. fasciatus* from Spain, they are slightly darker and not

so vinous on the upper and under parts, especially on the abdomen.

Type in the Tring Museum, ♂, Mount Ida, Crete, 4500 ft., 15. vi. 20.

Obs. I only found this Jay in the ilex forests on the hills of Crete.

Œnanthe œnanthe virago, subsp. nov.

I obtained seven males, two females, and a young bird in June at over 4500 feet on Mount Ida in Crete.

Adult male with a noticeably more silvery back than in any other race of *Œ. œ. œnanthe*, and with a considerable but varying amount of white on the forehead, in this latter characteristic resembling more birds from Central Asia (*argentea*). In some individuals white feathers extend back on to the crown. Wings purer black. Ear-coverts black, without a trace of brown.

Underparts a purer white than in any other race of *Œnanthe œnanthe*, and with less ochreous on the breast and lower throat. Culmen very large, varying from 19 to 20·5 mm. Wing small, varying from 89 to 95 mm.

Adult female has the upper parts grey tinged with brown, whereas in all other females of *Œnanthe œnanthe* the back is brown, sometimes tinged with grey. Ear-coverts dark black-brown and not ochreous. Underparts with much less ochreous than in other races. Culmen.18 mm., wing 87–89. (A female in the Tring Museum shot in May in Algeria is undoubtedly assuming the plumage of the male if it is correctly sexed, having a brownish-grey back, but even this bird is much darker both above and below than females from Crete.)

The juvenile plumage is distinctly grey on the upper parts, the feathers having pale brown edgings, whereas the juvenile plumage of other races is brown without a trace of grey.

Types in the Tring Museum, ♂ and ♀, a breeding pair, Mount Ida, Crete, 27. vi. 20.

I name this race after the presumptuous plumage of the hen bird.

Otus scops powelli, subsp. nov.

Intermediate between *Otus scops scops* and *Otus scops cyprius*, lacking on both the upper and under parts most of the reddish-brown of the former, whilst it is a much paler grey than the dark *Otus scops cyprius*. These characteristics are more noticeable on the underparts than on the upper parts, especially on the abdomen. On the head, hind neck, and scapulars they have more white than in *Otus scops scops*.

Wing of three males 150, 155, and 160 mm., and of two females 147 and 159.

Type in the Tring Museum, ♀, Candia District, Crete, 30. vi. 20.

I name this race after Mr. H. L. Powell, who accompanied me to Crete and prepared all my specimens.

Melanocorypha calandra hebraica, subsp. nov.

Intermediate between *Melanocorypha c. calandra* and *Melanocorypha c. psammochroa*.

A series of seven birds obtained at Acre, Damascus, and in the Coastal Plain of Palestine south to Ludd from October to May, come closer to *psammochroa* than to the typical race, but are not so pale and sandy as *psammochroa*. This is particularly noticeable in fresh autumn plumage. Wing of six males 127–131 and of one female 117 mm., whereas the wings of 10 males from East Persia and Turkestan vary from 130–135, and of two females 131 and 136.

Type in the Tring Museum, ♂, Jenin, N. Palestine, 1. v. 20.

Galerida cristata zion, subsp. nov.

It is with misgiving that I enter the lists to compete with my friends Hartert and Nicoll, but on an examination of 44 specimens of Crested Larks from Jerusalem, Beisan, Lake Galilee, Jenin, Damascus, and the Syrian Desert 40 miles east of that town, and from Baalbek, I am forced to the

conclusion that they differ from *G. c. brachyura* and *G. c. cinnamomina*.

In fresh autumn plumage they lack the cinnamon tinge of *G. c. cinnamomina*, but are darker than *brachyura*, the feathers on the back having blacker centres. Underparts similar to *cinnamomina*, but the breast-spotting is more marked than in *brachyura*. Outer tail-feathers with black only on the proximal half of the outer web, whilst the black on the inner web frequently covers the whole web except the extreme tip.

Wing of males 98–109 mm. and of females 96–104. Culmen of males 18·5–22, and of females 19–21.

Type in the Tring Museum, ♀, Jerusalem, 20. xi. 19.

Anthus richardi lacuum, subsp. nov.

For reasons I hope to give shortly in 'The Ibis,' I have united the *rufulus* group of Pipits with the *richardi* group.

Now birds from British East Africa and Uganda have hitherto been united under the name *Anthus rufulus cinnamomeus*, described by Rüppell from Abyssinia. I recently collected, with the assistance of Mr. Turner, a series of 47 birds from East Africa, and, in conjunction with a series of 37 birds from the Tring Collection, there can be no doubt that birds from Kenya Colony (British East Africa), Tanganyika Territory, and Uganda are not so cinnamon as birds from the type-locality and must be separated.

They are darker, less cinnamon, and more fulvous than *cinnamomeus*. Generally a greyer bird. Birds from west of the Victoria Nyanza appear slightly more cinnamon than birds from east of the Lake, but such variation is not sufficiently constant to warrant a further separation.

Type in the Tring Museum, ♂, Naivasha, collected by myself on 9. xi. 16.

Wings 81–91, 95, 99, 100 mm.; culmen 15–17, 18 mm.; hind claw, 9–12·5 mm.

Anthus sordidus decàptus, subsp. nov.

Hartert, in describing *Anthus captus* from Palestine, included birds from Eastern Persia and Baluchistan. I have now got a good series of *captus* from Palestine, and there is no doubt that it is a smaller bird in every respect than birds from East Persia and Baluchistan, of which I have examined 44 specimens.

Very similar to *captus*, but larger. In both fresh autumn and worn plumage the colour of the upper parts scarcely differs from *captus,* but the lower parts in fresh autumn plumage are more ochreous, whilst in winter and worn plumage the lower parts are not so white as in *captus.* The spotting on the breast is usually better defined than in *captus.*

Wing 95–106 mm., culmen 18·5–21·5.

Wing of *captus* (9 examined) 90–95 mm., culmen 18–20.

In juvenile plumage birds are mottled on the back and have broad fulvous margins to the inner secondaries. The breast-spotting is also more distinct than in adults.

Type in the Tring Museum, ♀, Rud-I-Taman in East Persia, 23. viii. 98 (Zarudny leg.).

Breeds in Persian Baluchistan, East Persia, and British Baluchistan, wandering to Sind in winter.

In the J.f.O. 1906, p. 236, Oscar Neumann described a new Pipit as *Anthus leucophrys angolensis.* This name is preoccupied by *Anthus angolensis* of Bocage, 'Jornal Sciencias Lisboa,' viii. p. 341 of 1870, which describes *Anthus chloris* Lichtenstein, and of which it is a synonym. I therefore propose the name

Anthus leucophrys neumanni, nom. nov.,

for Neumann's *angolensis.* Type as for *Anthus leucophrys angolensis* Neumann (No. 158 in the Tring Museum) and description as for *Anthus leucophrys angolensis* in the J.f.O. 1906, p. 236.

Anthus leucophrys goodsoni, subsp. nov.

Upper parts as in *Anthus l. leucophrys* and slightly darker than *A. l. neumanni*, though in one bird from Nyeri (in the

Tring Museum) the back is as pale as in *A. l. neumanni*. Breast-spotting slightly more distinct than in *neumanni*, and much more distinct than in *Anthus l. leucophrys*. Wing and culmen as in *A. l. leucophrys* and *neumanni*, but the hind claw is generally longer than in *neumanni*. Wing of males 95–102 mm., and of females 90–97. Culmen 15–18 mm., and hind claw 10–13.

Type in the Tring Collection, ♀, Nakuru, in Kenya Colony, shot on 2. i. 17, and collected for me by Mr. Alan Turner.

I name this race after Mr. Arthur Goodson, whose assistance in the Tring Museum is so much appreciated by all of us who work there.

Anthus gouldi turneri, subsp. nov.

Upper parts uniformly dark hair-brown (Ridgway, Pl. iii. fig. 12). Underparts pale wood-brown (Ridgway, iii. fig. 19), and not so dark as in *Anthus g. omoensis* of Neumann. Breast with large distinct pear-shaped blotches. Wing of males 94–100, and of females 90 to 95 mm. Culmen 15–19 mm., and hind claw 9–13.

Type in Tring Museum, ♂, Kituni in the N.W. part of Kenya Colony, shot on 19. ii. 17.

I name this race after Mr. Alan Turner, to whom I am so much indebted for my East African Collection.

Anthus gouldi prunus, subsp. nov.

Upper parts of adults a rich uniform hair-brown (Ridgway, 1886, Pl. iii. fig. 12) with frequently a slight maroon tinge. Underparts varying from pale wood-brown (Ridgway, iii. fig. 19) to whitish. Breast-spotting usually indistinct, but sometimes, especially in immature birds, it is distinct. A well-developed eye-stripe, extending back to the sides of the head.

The upper parts of immature birds are slightly tinged with yellow, are paler, and inclined to be blotched.

Wing of males 93–102 and of females 90–101 mm. Culmen 15–17 mm., and hind claw 10–15.

Type in the Tring Museum, ♂, Catatu River (Benguella in Angolaland), shot on 29. ix. 04 by Mr. W. J. Ansorge.

Cisticola cisticola neurotica, subsp. nov.

A slightly paler bird than *Cisticola c. cisticola*, greyer on the upper parts and especially on the wing and upper wing-coverts. Underparts as in *C. c. cisticola*. This race is not so pale as *C. c. aridula* or *arabica*, or as a specimen from Mesopotamia which I have seen in the Tring Collection.

Wing 49–51 mm.

Type in the Tring Museum, ♂, Sidon on the Syrian coast, shot by myself on 30. x. 19.

I name this race after its very nervous disposition, which is even more marked than in other *Cisticolæ* I have seen in Egypt and Italy.

Mr. M. J. Nicoll exhibited a new subspecies of *Anthus campestris*.

On comparing a series of 22 examples of Tawny Pipits from Egypt, Turkestan, and Persia, with a large series from Europe and Algeria, I find that the eastern birds differ in being greyer above, and in entirely lacking the ochreous-buff wash, in having decidedly shorter bills, and, on the whole, shorter wings.

In *A. campestris campestris* the wing varies from 89–95 mm. and the bill (from the base of the skull) 20–21, while in the eastern race the wing-measurements range from 80–94 and the bill 17–19.

Moreover, in the eastern race, the underparts are whiter and more streaked with brown on the upper breast.

I propose the following name for this eastern race :—

Anthus campestris griseus, subsp. nov.

Type, ♂, Tischan, Turkestan, 11–22. v. 1900. Zarudny Collection in Tring Museum.

It is possible that *A. campestris minor* of Blasius, 1900, is referable to this form, but is in any case a synonym, the name being preoccupied by *Anthus pratensis minor* Brehm, 'Naumannia,' 1856, p. 346.

N.B.—In breeding-plumage the upper parts are more

brownish-grey than are examples in freshly moulted autumn plumage.

I have examined several examples in Egypt in January, February, November, and December, both adults and young.

The synonymy of this new race is as follows :—

?*Anthus campestris minor* R. Blasius in 'Naumann, Naturg. Vög. Mitteleuropas,' iii. p. 74 (1900, ex Homeyer MS. & nom. nud. Grabowski, 1893).

Anthus rufulus Vieillot. Nicoll, 'Hand-list of the Birds of Egypt,' p. 24 (1919).

Mr. H. F. Witherby exhibited a series of eight specimens of *Acrocephalus*, collected by the late Colonel H. H. Harington in the Kaghan, N.W. India, in June and July 1914, which he proposed to separate as a new geographical race as follows :—

Acrocephalus agricola haringtoni, subsp. nov.

Similar to *A. a. concinens*, but considerably more buff on the flanks and breast, and with a very slightly smaller bill. In addition to the series exhibited, five breeding birds collected in the same valley by the late Captain Whitehead had been examined, and all differed at a glance from a series of *A. a. concinens* from China, by their more buff flanks and breasts. Their measurements were as follows :—♂, wing 56–58 mm., tail 56–58, bill from skull 14–14·5. ♀, wing 54–58 mm., bill 12·5–14·5. Wing-formula as in *A. a. concinens*, the 2nd primary being between the 8th and 10th. *A. a. agricola*, though differing in wing-formula, the 2nd primary being longer (type, Madras winter, in Brit. Mus. examined), was in winter plumage often as buff on the flanks as the form described. In summer plumage, if, indeed, breeding birds from Turkestan were the true *A. a. agricola*, they were even whiter on the underparts than *A. a. concinens*.

Type. ♂, Buttakundi, Kaghan, 12. 7. 1914, breeding, collected by H. H. Harington, in coll. H. F. Witherby.

Dr. H. Langton exhibited a Yellowshank, *Totanus flavipes*, shot by Major A. A. Dorrien-Smith on the Little

Pool, Tresco, Isles of Scilly, on September 2nd, 1920, on the exact spot where a Greater Yellowshank, *Totanus melanoleucus*, was shot in September, 1906. The bird, which proved a female by dissection, was observed about the pool for four days before being shot.

Mr. P. F. Bunyard exhibited the following eggs :—

Hooded Crow (*Corvus cornix*).—Two eggs showing true erythrism from Mark Brandenburg, April 1882. Ground-colour pale pink, with various shades of fine and evenly distributed chocolate-brown surface-markings and purplish-grey underlying markings. Measurements 43 × 29 and 43 × 30 mm. Erythristic *cornix* eggs have been previously recorded from Sweden and Mull.

Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*).—An erythristic clutch of six from near Berlin. Ground-colour pinkish-white ; surface-markings pale reddish-brown, suffused and large, mostly confined to larger axis. Underlying markings, various shades of lead-grey, large and conspicuous.

Another clutch of five from Mark Brandenburg had ground-colour pale greenish-white, with very bold surface-markings of dark brownish-black. Underlying markings olive-brown, suffused and large.

Barred Warbler (*Sylvia nisoria*).—A clutch of four from Coepenick, near Berlin, 2/7/10, showing true erythrism. Ground-colour very pale pink ; surface-markings absent, as is the case with nearly all *nisoria* eggs. Underlying markings pale ash-grey tinged pink, mostly confined to the large ends.

He believed this to be the first recorded occurrence of erythrism in *nisoria* eggs.

Black Redstart (*Phœnicurus titys*).—A clutch of four *marked* eggs from Coepenick, near Berlin. These are typical, except for the fine markings of pale reddish-brown at the larger ends.

They are genuine pigment-markings, some of which are well under the outer lime-layer.

Mr. Bunyard also exhibited a Golden Eagle's egg from Spain deeply scratched at the small end, in further support of his theory on the scratches on eggs (*cf.* Bull. B.O.C. vol. xl. pp. 33 & 71).

GENERAL INDEX.

A General Index to the 'Bulletin' covering volumes 16 to 39 is now ready and can be obtained, price £1, from the publishers, Messrs. Witherby & Co., 326 High Holborn, W.C.

The cost of production of this important volume has been very considerable and a serious tax upon the funds of the Club; it is hoped therefore that all members will subscribe for a copy, without which their series of the 'Bulletin' will be incomplete.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, the 10th of November, 1920, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, the Dinner at 7 p.m. Members intending to dine are requested to inform the Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. L. Bonhote, Park Hill House, Carshalton, Surrey.

[N.B.—Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice *beforehand* to the Editor at Nat. Hist. Museum, South Kensington, and to place in his hands *not later than at the meeting* MSS. for publication in the Bulletin.]

(Signed)

W. L. Sclater,	Percy R. Lowe,	J. L. Bonhote,
Chairman.	*Editor.*	*Sec. & Treas.*

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCLIV.

DEC 15 192

The Annual General Meeting, postponed from October, was held at Pagani's Restaurant immediately before the Dinner.

Mr. W. L. Sclater in the Chair.

The Hon. Secretary read the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, which were duly confirmed.

Dr. P. R. Lowe was elected Editor of the 'Bulletin' in the place of Mr. D. Seth-Smith, who had completed his term of office.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the retiring Editor.

Mr. J. L. Bonhote was elected Hon. Secretary and Treasurer in succession to Dr. P. Gosse. Under a misapprehension that Col. Stephenson Clarke was retiring from the Committee, two members, Dr. H. Langton and the Rev. J. R. Hale, had been proposed as new members of the Committee. A nomination of Mr. D. A. Bannerman for the Committee had been received from Dr. C. B. Ticehurst, seconded by Mr. F. W. Smalley, under Rule VII. Messrs. Langton and Bannerman, however, having withdrawn in favour of the Rev. J. R. Hale, this latter gentleman was duly elected.

The CHAIRMAN stated that Messrs. Pagani had written to say that it would be necessary to increase the price of the dinner to 7*s.* 6*d.* from January next. After some discussion it was decided that the Secretary should make enquiries elsewhere, but unless he found good reasons for a change we should remain at Pagani's.

The CHAIRMAN made some remarks on our financial condition, and pointed out that our present liabilities would absorb all the subscriptions for the present session and possibly more. He further stated that owing to the increase in the cost of printing we must budget for a yearly expenditure of at least £200. Under these circumstances, a considerable increase of the yearly subscription would be inevitable, and he proposed calling a Special General Meeting for that purpose at an early date when the Committee had gone into the matter more fully. He also pointed out that the General Index had cost £169 and that only 45 members had bought a copy, and he hoped that all members would get one in order to help on the finances of the Club, even if they did not specially require it for use.

A short discussion followed, in which Mr. MATHEWS suggested that many of the descriptions of new forms might be considerably shortened without impairing their scientific value. Mr. BUNYARD suggested that if the Index were sold to members for 10*s.* instead of £1 more members would be likely to buy it, and Major SLADEN that in future more consideration should be given to our finances so that we did not spend money on extra-ordinary publications which, however useful they might be, we could not afford.

THE two-hundred-and-fifty-first Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48, Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, November 10th, 1920.

Chairman: W. L. SCLATER, M.A.

Members present:—E. E. ADAMS; P. H. BAHR; E. C. STUART BAKER; D. A. BANNERMAN; E. BIDWELL; J. L. BONHOTE; P. F. BUNYARD; P. A. BUXTON; C. CHUBB;

Col. Stephenson R. Clarke ; H. J. Cochrane ; Lieut.-Col. Delmé-Radcliffe ; Dr. P. Gosse ; Rev. J. R. Hale ; Capt. E. C. Hardy, R.N.; E. Hartert ; G. R. Humphreys ; T. Iredale ; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain ; N. B. Kinnear ; G. C. Lambert ; Dr. H. Langton ; Dr. P. R. Lowe (*Editor*) ; Capt. H. Lynes, R.N. ; J. D. Mackenzie ; H. A. F. Magrath ; G. M. Mathews ; E. G. B. Meade Waldo ; H. Munt ; D. W. Musselthwaite ; J. H. Newman ; Capt. C. R. Pitman ; A. E. Price ; F. R. Ratcliffe ; C. B. Rickett ; Lord Rothschild ; Sir Malcolm Seton, K.C.B. ; Major A. L. Sladen ; Col. R. Sparrow ; H. Kirke Swann ; C. G. Talbot-Ponsonby ; H. M. Wallis ; H. Whistler, H. F. Witherby.

Guests :—E. C. Barrington ; G. L. Bates ; E. W. Blessiz ; R. R. Davis ; C. E. Fagan ; T. Forbes ; G. M. Gifford ; H. G. Maurice ; O. R. Owen ; H. C. Robinson, P. B. Smyth, G. F. Stewart, L. G. M. Sheldon, J. H. W. Vale.

Mr. W. L. Sclater gave the Meeting some account of his recent journey round the World. The last three months of 1919 were spent in the United States, where he attended the Annual Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, which was held at the American Museum of Natural History in New York on November 12 to 14. The question of the joint publication of the 'Systema Avium' with the B. O. U. was discussed at some length, and a provisional agreement come to in regard to the matter.

In January Mr. Sclater crossed the American Continent to Vancouver, and thence travelled homewards, making short stays at Hong Kong, Singapore, and in Ceylon.

Mr. W. L. Sclater also described the following new subspecies :—

Baza lophotes burmana, subsp. nov.

Distinguished from *B. l. lophotes* by the absence of the rufous on the scapulars, which are white with a broad apical band of black, while in *B. l. lophotes* there is a band of

chestnut between the black apices and the white bases ; the band across the chest posterior to the white band is black in *B. l. burmanus* and rufous in *B. l. lophotes*. In size the two forms do not appear to differ.

Types in the British Museum, ♂ ♀. Malewoon on the Patchan Estuary in the extreme south of Tenasserim Province in British Burma, 9.i.75, collected by W. Davison. Hume Coll., B.M. Reg. Nos. 85.8.19.2061–2.

Distribution. Burma (Shan States and Tenasserim), Cambodia and the Malay Peninsula.

Dimensions of types. Wing, ♂ 229 mm., ♀ 246 ; tail, ♂ 125, ♀ 135 ; tarsus, ♂ 26, ♀ 26.

The type-locality of the typical race described by Temminck (Pl. Col. livr. 2, pl. 10, 1824) is Pondicherry. Birds from Southern India, Ceylon, and the Nepal terai all have the red on the scapulars, those from Burma and the Malay Peninsula are without it. Assam birds are intermediate.

A bird from the Mi Nam Kabren, Siam, obtained 12.xi.15 by C. Chunggat, Mr. E. G. Herbert's Siamese Collector, and now in the Museum, approaches the Ceylon form in having some rufous on the scapulars, but has the black band across the chest. The variation probably depends on climatal conditions.

On behalf of Count Nils Gyldenstope, Mr. Sclater gave the following description of a new Tree-Pie from Siam:—

Dendrocitta rufa sakeratensis, subsp. nov.

Similar to *D. rufa rufa*, Scop., from Bengal, but differs in having the brownish-black area on the head and neck sharply defined from the colour of the upper back, never blending with it as in the typical form ; remainder of upper parts of the body bright ochraceous buff, only slightly washed with clay-colour on the upper back ; abdomen and under tail-coverts ochraceous buff, instead of cinnamon-buff. Total length 415 mm., wing 153 mm., tail 236 mm., culmen 27 mm., bill from gape 33 mm., tarsus 31 mm. Iris dark brown, bill black, legs black.

Type. Ad. ♂, collected at Sakerat in Eastern Siam, 5th January, 1912.

Distribution. Apparently only confined to Eastern Siam, and even there comparatively rare.

Lord Rothschild exhibited two new birds discovered by Captain Angus Buchanan in Asben (Aïr) in the Central Sahara, which he described as follows:—

Myrmecocichla buchanani, sp. nov.

♂ ad. Upperside blackish brown, crown more brownish and with paler edges to the feathers; one-half to two-thirds of the basal portion of the inner webs of the primaries white; tail more blackish. Underside very dark brown, feathers of throat, chest, and breast with pale brownish-grey edges, tinged with buff; ear-coverts uniform deep brown. "Iris dark brown, bill and feet black." Wing 110–117, females apparently the smaller ones; tail 76–79, bill from base 22–24 mm. Juv.: Edges to the feathers more rufous.

Hab. Damergou and Zinder, south to Kana in Northern Nigeria.

Type. In the Tring Museum. ♂ ad. Takoukout, Damergou, 1550 feet, north of Kano, 13.iii.1920. No. 441. Collected by Angus Buchanan.

Named after Captain Buchanan.

This form is allied to *M. formicivora æthiops*, but the bill is longer, the colour of the males not so black, and the edges to the feathers of the throat and breast are lighter and wider.

Anthus sordidus asbenaicus, subsp. nov.

The Pipit breeding in the mountains of Asben (Aïr), in the Central Sahara, is, of all the forms known to us, nearest to *Anthus sordidus hararensis* (*A. nicholsoni hararensis* Neum.) from Harar and Northern Somaliland, but more rufescent, especially on the rump and upper tail-coverts, the chest is less spotted and the flanks paler. There is also, as a rule, less brown on the inner webs of the outermost tail-feathers.

Hab. Mt. Baguezan, Asben (Aïr), Central Sahara, 5200 feet.

Type. In the Tring Museum. ♂ ad. Mt. Baguezan, 25.v.1920. No. 632. Angus Buchanan Coll.

Captain H. Lynes exhibited two more new subspecies of birds found by him in Darfur Province, Anglo-Egyptian Sudan :—

Micropus æquatorialis furensis, subsp. nov.

" Darfur Equatorial Swift."

Intermediate between typical *M. æquatorialis* and *M. æ. lowei* Bannerman. Above smoky-brown like the former ; below resembling the latter in the large clearly defined white throat-patch and in the barred *white* lower breast and belly, but the whole colour paler (like upperside) and the barred *white* feathering extending also to the flanks and sides of the body.

Wing 208 mm., tail 85 mm., tarsus 15 mm., bill 10 mm.

Type. In the British Museum. ♂ ad. El Fasher, Darfur, 17.iii.20. Collected by Captain Lynes.

Four specimens collected at El Fasher :—

3 adult males : wings 206–208 mm., tails 85 mm.

1 adult male : wing 200 mm., tail 85 mm.

Obs. Although all specimens were collected at El Fasher (alt. 2600 feet), the birds only came there (probably from the mountains) for half-an-hour each mid-day to drink at the pools.

Fringillaria striolata jebelmarræ, subsp. nov.

" Jebel Marra Rock-Bunting."

Of similar colour-pattern to *F. striolata*, but altogether larger and a more richly coloured bird, even than *F. saturatior*.

Whole head, neck, throat, and crop French-grey, streaked with black, heavily above, but so much less so below as to leave the French-grey colour quite predominant. The white superciliary and moustachial streaks are much less distinct than in *F. striolata*.

Breast, belly, and flanks rich red-brown (Mikado-brown, *Ridgway*). Wings, tail, and remainder of plumage of similar

pattern to, but much darker and richer red-brown than, *F. striolata*.

Female. Similar to female *F. striolata*, but altogether larger; darker, more richly red-brown coloured throughout. Wing 79 mm., tail 64 mm., tarsus 18 mm., bill 10 mm.

Type. In the British Museum. ♂ ad. Jebel Marra. Altitude 7100 feet. 5.iv.20. Collected by Captain Lynes.

Eight specimens collected in Jebel Marra, all above 7000 feet altitude.

Five adult males : wings 82–77 mm.; tails 67–62 mm.

Three adult females : wings 78–73 mm.; tails 66–61 mm.

Mr. C. Chubb sent the following communication in regard to the rectification of two specific names :—

(1) *Pyrrhula cinereola* Temm. Pl. Col., Livr. ii. pl. xi. fig. 1 ("Brésil"), vol. 111, pl. 96 [wrongly dated December 1824 in the copy at the British Museum (Natural History) and in the 'Catalogue of Birds']; correct date September 1820 has priority over *Fringilla hypoleuca* Licht. Verz. Doubl. p. 26 (1823) (Brazil).

(2) *Sporophila intermedia* Cab. Mus. Hein. i. p. 149, note 1851 (Venezuela), must be used for the bird generally known as *Loxia grisea* Gmelin, which is undeterminable.

Mr. Gregory M. Mathews sent the following communication :—

Proseisura, gen. nov.

Type, *Arses lorealis* De Vis.

Nesoceryx, gen. nov.

Type, *Charadrius bicinctus* Jardine & Selby.

ADAMASTOR.

The type of *Adamastor*, Bonaparte, 1856, as now designated, is *Procellaria æquinoctialis* "Edw. etc." = Linné, 1758.

[Editor's Note.—*Siphia obscura* Sharpe, P. Z. S. 1881, p. 789 (Borneo), *Anthipes obscura*, Hand-list of Birds, iii. p. 219, 1901 = *Basileuterus rivularis* (Wied), Reise Bras. ii. p. 103, 1821 (Villa d'Ilhios, Bahia).]

J. Lewis Bonhote, M.A., F.L.S., F.Z.S., then addressed the meeting on the subject of **Bird Protection**, and said :—

In reading this short paper on "Bird Protection," I propose to deal with the subject on very general lines, not discussing the merits or demerits of particular species, but rather to call your attention to the general principles which must be observed, and on which Protection Laws must be framed if they are to be in any way effective.

There is perhaps hardly any subject which is more complicated, and in which it is easier to make mistakes, than in legislating hastily for the destruction or protection of any wild species, and a mistake once made is usually irretrievable, as, for instance, the introduction of Rabbits into Australia and Sparrows into North America.

We may, first of all, ask ourselves why birds need protection? Why, for instance, in this country we have a bird protection law, but none protecting Hedgehogs, Shrews, and other lower orders of animals? I think the answer is, firstly, that birds are more numerous and more beautiful, thereby attracting our attention; secondly, they are a commercial asset, therefore sought after, either for sport, plumage, or collections, and, lastly, they are both useful and harmful to agriculture. We cannot consider "Protection" without also considering "Destruction."

The economic reason for protection is that the species we protect may destroy other animals or insects which we do not require, or may so increase that we ourselves may destroy it for its food or feathers.

Bird Protection in most countries has not, as a whole, been very successful, and the chief reason for the failure or futility of many Bird Protection Laws arises from three main causes :—

(i.) Sentimentality.
(ii.) Apathy.
(iii.) Lack of knowledge.

The first is the most powerful, and also the most dangerous, of the causes which confront the scientific protector, and on the rare occasions when sentimentality goes with science no further law is necessary. There are many

instances of this to be found in various parts of the world, and it is probable that the easiest, as well as the most effective, laws are the superstitions which exist among many races—such, for instance, as one in Egypt that demands the killing of certain Lizards; while in this country the halo of sentimentality which surrounds the Robin forms an absolutely effective protection for that species.

The other two causes—apathy, lack of knowledge—may be taken together and arise from the general slackness of the man in the street, who knows and cares nothing about birds, and the ignorance of our legislators, who, when they are stirred up, frame laws which, if they get through Parliament, pass uncriticised owing to the indifference and apathy of other members. Only a few years back certain of the enactments of the Ministry of Agriculture—who at least should have known better—were obviously likely to be productive of much more harm than good, *e.g.*, the greater liberty allowed to farmers and others to shoot pheasants, one of the best weed and insect killers we have, and more useful than ever when taking into consideration the shortage of labour, owing to the war; while millions of Ducks that were specially numerous in England in the winter 1916–17 were allowed to leave our shores untouched and, too late, the open season was prolonged, causing our own breeding birds to be sacrificed, while valuable food winged its way to other countries.

In addition to these, school-boys were to be encouraged to destroy the nests, eggs, and young of Sparrows, a process which is most ill-advised and invariably leads to a great destruction of the more useful insectivorous birds.

I only mention these instances to show you how easy it is to make mistakes, and how careful one ought to be before rushing into legislation.

Three main causes lead to the necessity of having special legislative Protection for Birds :—

(1) Collecting.
(2) Sport.
(3) Economically, when required for feather, eggs, or food.

The first is the one of which we hear most, and it is, economically, probably the least important. Collectors are not numerous enough, and do not run after a particular species until it has got extremely rare and has ceased to be of any economic importance—then the collector steps in and gives the death blow, and is the proverbial "last straw."

Consequently it is a spectacular event which calls forth a universal chorus of condemnation. From a sentimental point of view, however, it is right that such species should receive all the protection we can give them, and we have no more right to allow them to be destroyed than we have to allow a collector of pictures to steal a Turner from the National Gallery and destroy it. They are both unique and irreplaceable.

The Protection of Birds for Sport needs no comment. Sportsmen are numerous and influential, and they are not likely to exterminate any species and therefore lose their sport; and as the average sportsman knows the habits of his game, the game protection laws are, as a rule, fairly good. Where the sportsman requires watching is regarding the protection of the enemies of his quarry, such as the Hawks and Owls, for here he may, and often does, destroy birds which are economically most useful.

On the other hand, it must not be forgotten that certain animals, such as the Fox and Deer, probably owe their continued existence in England owing to their being protected for sporting purposes, and that deer-forests have in many places been instrumental in saving the Golden Eagle.

Lastly, birds need protection economically, either when we require them ourselves for food, eggs, or feathers, or to aid us in destroying pests. The former is, in my opinion, by far the more important, though it is for the latter reason that birds have been most protected.

Each of these causes requires a special method of Protection, and I purpose taking concrete examples to familiarise you with the main practical methods of Bird Protection :—

(1) *Collecting.* The Kite in England offers a good example of the steps which it may be necessary to take to save a

vanishing species from the collector. A few years ago this species was reduced to nine birds: 4½ pairs, of which one pair was barren. Firstly, the species was given absolute protection throughout the year, and the farmers and tenants in the district were interested personally in their protection. In spring the nests were located, the tree surrounded with barbed wire, and two keepers and a watch-dog obtained, to watch the nest night and day. In this manner, and at a cost of £50 to £60 per nest, defrayed by private subscription, this species was able to increase, and has now spread into several other counties.

This is an extreme instance of purely æsthetic and sentimental protection.

(2) *The essence of protecting for Sport* is the principle of giving absolute protection to a species during the breeding season, and also of artificially increasing the output by hatching and rearing young birds under foster-mothers—the output being increased by removing the eggs from under the birds as soon as they are laid, and extra care in the rearing enables a greater number of the progeny to reach maturity than would be the case under their own parents.

(3) *A species economically useful for food, eggs, or feathers.* Attempts to protect birds for these purposes usually resolve themselves into a fight between the Commercials on the one hand—who are, I am afraid, less alive to the danger of killing the Goose that lays the golden eggs than they should be—and the Sentimentalists who wish to ride roughshod over the Commercials' livelihood and the people's food or pleasure by entirely prohibiting the trade, whatever it may be. In my opinion the sentimentalists are entirely on the wrong track, for, as in the case of the Game Birds, Nature, if properly handled, will provide abundance for man as well as for herself. Sentimentalists seem to forget that had their point of view been followed from the beginning of the world, we should have no wheat nor barley, no sheep, horses, or cattle, for all these species only yield their abundance to man through having been utilised and farmed, and not by man being forbidden to use them.

Some years ago the supply of Plovers' eggs from Holland tended to diminish, but the authorities there, instead of stopping the trade, which is very large and might have seriously affected certain districts and islands, allowed the taking of eggs up to a certain date, and gave the adult birds absolute protection during the breeding season. The result was that although more eggs were taken every year the number of pairs increased until the country is now holding its maximum quantity of birds, and the number of eggs taken yearly runs into hundreds of thousands. Normally, each pair hatches four young a year, of which probably 50 per cent. die before leaving for their winter quarters. Under the protection some eight eggs or two layings are taken from each pair, that finally lays a third clutch of four eggs, of which, as they are more carefully watched, we may assume that 25 per cent. only die young, leaving a net increase of 25 per cent. on the birds in normal conditions, and, in addition, man has taken *his* stock of eggs, which has thus given employment and food to hundreds. Yet in the face of this example we still have sentimentalists in England who wish to prevent us eating Plovers' eggs.

The same policy has been applied to the feather trade, and laws prohibiting the export and import of feathers have been passed in some countries, *e. g.*, India and the United States, but I am afraid that these laws will be evaded, and so far I have noticed no diminution in the wearing of aigrettes on ladies' hats.

Let us now consider more particularly the Protection of Birds from the more strictly economical aspect—when we may wish to increase or diminish a species that is already fairly numerous.

Before commencing to frame any laws, we must first study and understand the Laws of Nature, which are paramount, and it can only be by acting through these laws that we can hope for any chance of success.

The first and most important of these Laws is that *with every species its rate of increase is directly dependent on its food-supply.*

Secondly, under normal conditions, no species will ever exterminate the species (be it plant, insect, or animal) on which it preys. This second law is obviously a corollary of the first, since as the species preyed upon becomes scarce, so also will the attacker increase less rapidly and the relative balance between the two species remains unaltered, and *à fortiori* if the preyed upon species became extinct the attacking species would also have become extinct, unless it had turned its attention to other prey.

A third law is, that if birds are granted absolute safety during the breeding season for themselves and their young, man may destroy all he can during the rest of the year without appreciably affecting their numbers. This is one reason why egg-collecting is more harmful than skin-collecting, and also, as I shall attempt to show later, gives us a lead as to the most important period in which to concentrate our efforts for the protection or destruction of any particular species.

Bearing these points in mind, it is obvious that man must be continually at war with Nature.

For instance, man is largely dependent on wheat as his chief food—science and civilisation enable him to grow large tracts of wheat to the exclusion of other plants; these large and concentrated areas of wheat bring about a large increase of grain-feeding birds, more particularly the House-Sparrow, and we should also get an equally large increase of the Sparrows' enemies, *e. g.*, the Hawks. In this country, however, that is not the case: 1st, because Hawks find chickens, pheasants, and partridges, when being artificially reared, a much easier prey, so that they themselves have been largely kept down in the interests of sport and against the interests of Agriculture. 2nd, because the Sparrow is essentially a town bird, where Hawks dare not follow him, migrating into the wheat fields when the corn is ripe. Thus we see to what depths of complexity we immediately become involved when thinking out what looks at the outset as a simple problem.

In formulating the second law, I stated that under normal

conditions (*i. e.*, where species have evolved together) the preyer would never exterminate his prey, but if we introduce an alien preyer the case might conceivably be different and that while the balance of Nature is being readjusted, the undesirable species might be exterminated. In theory this is possible, in practice we have never known it to happen. Either the introduced species will oust entirely or partially the natural enemies of the noxious species so that the next result is unaltered, or he will be unable to adapt himself to his new surroundings, and so die out, or he will find some prey easier to capture than the species we wish exterminated and turn his attention to them, leaving our noxious species untouched. Hence the introduction of an alien species is most strongly to be deprecated, and I have not known of a single successful introduction, while the lesson of the Sparrow in America, the Mongoose in the West Indies, and the Rabbit in Australia are surely sufficient in themselves to condemn the practice.

The balance of Nature is extremely complex, and in introducing alien species we can never tell what effect it will have, and if the results should be disastrous it will then probably be too late to remedy the evil. Man is by means omnipotent over Nature, he is powerless to exterminate directly *any* species—witness the abundance of many species of Sparrows, Rats, Mice, Wasps, Fleas, and many other insects which increase and multiply even though in close contact with us in our daily life.

Protection Laws are, however, necessary to prevent the absolute local extermination of species that in thickly populated countries have become extremely rare through other causes only indirectly due to man—the Goldfinch, for instance, is much scarcer than it used to be, owing to the better cultivation of the land and the fewer areas of waste land containing its favourite food. It may be argued that since stricter watch has been kept on bird-catchers it has increased, and that may be so, but the days when one bird-catcher used to catch as many as 1154 dozens in a year had

gone long before the protection laws came to the rescue of the comparative few that remained.

Another great reason adduced for protecting birds is their usefulness as destructors of insects; but even here the usefulness of birds may be exaggerated—all insects are seasonal, only appearing in certain stages for a short time in the year,—so that if a species of Bird is to be effective, it must not only be present when the insect is in the particular stage in which the Bird eats it, but the Bird must either migrate or turn its attention to other food during the rest of the year. Take, for instance, Thrushes, who may do a considerable amount of good by destroying snails, but they have now become so numerous that the damage they do to fruit in season far more than counterbalances the good that they may do at other times.

Then, again, *all* insects are not injurious, and the number of species of birds that restrict their diet to one kind of insect is very small, so that in protecting an insectivorous bird we may be protecting the enemy of a very injurious insect. For instance, spiders are tit-bits to any insectivorous bird, yet they are the most efficient destructors of flies that are universally acknowledged to be noxious and dangerous to ourselves.

Therefore, birds are at the best, merely aids, as the natural enemies of many insects, in destroying a proportion of them; but, on the ground of our first law, they will never come anywhere near exterminating them, much less exterminating any particularly noxious species. When it is necessary to destroy insects, other and artificial means have proved the best—to mention two cases, Mosquitoes and Flies. The former, as is well-known, have been entirely eliminated in some districts by draining the land or spreading a thin film of oil over ponds or marshes, while flies have been largely reduced by the removal of refuse and rubbish heaps and greater general cleanliness. Both these methods agree with the third law in the destruction of breeding-places.

These methods have been found quite as efficacious and

much more certain in their working than the attempted protection of insectivorous birds, who would not devote their whole energies to the particular species which it is necessary to destroy, and which, even if they did, would be unable to eat more than a certain number each day.

From these instances we can draw two general deductions, viz. :—

(1) That if we wish to destroy any particular pest, artificial means are best, and

(2) our efforts should be directed to the breeding-places.

Artificial means are best, because we probably destroy only the one species, and also because we keep the means of repression within our own control. If we attempt to destroy one species by protecting its enemies, we at once upset the balance of Nature. The fly- and mosquito-feeding birds, if we could get them here in sufficient numbers to destroy the mosquitos *in autumn*, would have to turn to another food *in winter* when the mosquitos are much fewer, and we could have no guarantee that they would only feed on noxious insects, and thus we get Nature locally in a state of unstable equilibrium, and the matter may easily get beyond our control, whereas by using artificial means we can make it much more effective and we never lose control.

The destruction of breeding-places is the most effective of all methods, because thereby you can destroy a far greater percentage. Suppose, for instance, it was desirable to destroy Moorhens—a skulking water-bird that wanders into the crops for its food,—to try and shoot it down would be impossible owing to its skulking habits, an increase of natural enemies, such as Hawks, would fail for the same reason. Poisoned grain would destroy other species, but by draining the ponds, destroying the water-vegetation, or even by stocking the ponds with predatory fish, the birds would be bound to die out or to seek other quarters.

We must remember that, save in exceptional cases, most species are increasing or decreasing very slowly, because to do so they are largely dependent on the increase or decrease

of the species on which they live, *i. e.*, the amount of their food ; consequently, it follows that between, say, 98–100 per cent. of their progeny must be killed before the next breeding season, and hence it follows with certainty that if one artificially destroys, say, 50 per cent. of that progeny, Nature's toll of 98 per cent. of what is left is bound to lead to a decrease of the species.

Per contra, and just as surely, if we wish to preserve or protect any animal, we have only to increase its output and Nature does the rest, but in this case we must make sure that the necessary food is also there.

(i.) The easiest and most successful way is to have a close time in the breeding season, thus preventing the adults from being destroyed, and to reduce, if possible, their enemies during that time.

(ii.) To increase, if possible, their food-supply. Of course, if we are protecting a species to destroy a pest, their food is already present, and

(iii.) To grow, plant, or otherwise make suitable breeding-places.

This last method may be of considerable importance, and there is no doubt that in many places in England birds have been induced to take up their quarters and stay to breed, owing to artificial nest-boxes being placed on trees and other suitable objects. Next in importance to their food is this question of breeding-places, for during the nesting-season many species will not allow another of their own kind within a certain radius ; each pair having, so to speak, an undefined kingdom, on which the intrusion of another of its kind is violently resented, consequently the benefit of a useful species becomes restricted if there are not enough suitable and scattered breeding-places, in spite of the fact that there may be a superabundance of food.

Thus far I have dealt generally with the best methods of increasing or decreasing species without reference to their benefit or the reverse to man, and I have tried to show that the protection of birds is not the best way of dealing with

insect pests, but none the less they may form a most useful adjunct, and therefore all methods for protecting useful birds should be employed ; but we must be certain that any particular species *is* useful and for that purpose we must know its food and habits minutely, and on these points our knowledge of birds in general is sadly deficient. Nevertheless, a purely insectivorous bird is likely to do more good than harm, and hence in default of exact knowledge we shall do well to preserve it.

We must remember that not all insects are harmful, and that many species of insects prey on others, and in that way do as much good as many insectivorous birds; also that certain insects are distasteful to birds and consequently no increase of bird-life will affect their numbers, *e.g.*, Gooseberry Moth. The matter is also further complicated by migration, so that the bird may not be in the country when the insect is in a suitable stage of development ; also the food of many birds varies according to the time of the year, and while eating insects during certain months they may turn their attention to fruit when in season, and for a similar reason a bird may be useful in one country and harmful in another, so that while we are trying to increase the numbers of a certain species all our efforts may be defeated by a reverse process in a neighbouring country. I trust that you will not think that I am against any protection of birds, far from it, but I am dealing to-day from the purely utilitarian point of view, and therefore for the moment am dealing in the hard facts and banishing all sentimental and æsthetic considerations from my arguments.

Before concluding, let me roughly summarize the gist of my remarks. The scarcity of any particular species of bird in this country has been primarily due to high cultivation and destruction of suitable breeding-places, and no protection will increase those species, but, owing to their rarity, their eggs and skins have become of value to collectors and they are thus in danger of extermination in this country, more especially when they breed here and get their nests robbed, perhaps two or three times yearly. This

is where the harm of egg-collecting comes in, and it is, I regret to say, often indulged in by those who should know better. Much may doubtless be learnt from series of eggs, but the science of oology is still in its infancy, and I would suggest to those students that they would achieve a more useful purpose by accumulating series, where necessary, of the commoner species and leaving rarities alone. Any way, we have to take the world as we find it, and consequently all rare breeding birds should be protected throughout the year. Though less to blame, the skin-collector is not beyond reproach, as his passion for a "rare bird" has often prevented our rarer migrants from settling down to breed, as has been recently shown by the re-establishment of the Bittern on the Norfolk Broads. I am glad to think, however, that the skin-collector is usually a man with a gun—rather than a scientific collector. Beyond this, complete protection during the breeding season should be all that is required to keep our native bird fauna, and our present laws are perhaps fairly good on the whole; they fail in being too much complicated by the innumerable Schedules, which differ according to the whims of County Councillors, subject to the approval of a Home Secretary who is not chosen for his ornithological knowledge.

When any species has been proved to be harmful, then a special and "official" campaign should be made against it, rather than by including it in Schedules; and *vice versa* if it be desired to increase a species, for the increase or decrease of a fairly abundant species cannot be brought about directly, but only by working in conjunction with Nature's Laws, the two most important of which are Food and Reproduction.

Mr. Edgar Chance is arranging for Dr. Eugene Ray's work on the Cuckoo to be translated.

Will those interested in becoming possessed of a copy of this translated work communicate with Mr. Chance, who will be pleased to supply details? Address: 9 Hay Hill, W. 1.

GENERAL INDEX.

A General Index to the 'Bulletin' covering volumes 16 to 39 is now ready and can be obtained, price £1, from the publishers, Messrs. Witherby & Co., 326 High Holborn, W.C.

The cost of production of this important volume has been very considerable and a serious tax upon the funds of the Club; it is hoped therefore that all members will subscribe for a copy, without which their series of the 'Bulletin' will be incomplete.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, the 8th of December, 1920, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, the Dinner at 7 p.m. Members intending to dine are requested to inform the Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. L. Bonhote, Park Hill House, Carshalton, Surrey.

[N.B.—Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice *beforehand* to the Editor at Nat. Hist. Museum, South Kensington, and to place in his hands *not later than at the meeting* MSS. for publication in the Bulletin.]

(Signed)

W. L. Sclater, *Chairman.* Percy R. Lowe, *Editor.* J. L. Bonhote, *Sec. & Treas.*

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

Smithsonian Institution
JAN 14 1920
National Museum

No. CCLV.

The two-hundred-and-fifty-second Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48, Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, December 8th, 1920.

Chairman: W. L. Sclater, M.A.

Members present:—E. E. Adams; E. C. Stuart Baker; E. Bidwell; P. A. Buxton; R. W. Chase; C. Chubb; J. P. Stephenson Clarke; Colonel Stephenson R. Clarke; E. V. Earle; Rev. J. R. Hale; E. C. Hardy; Dr. E. Hartert; G. R. Humphreys; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain; N. B. Kinnear; Dr. H. Langton; Dr. P. R. Lowe (*Editor*); C. W. Mackworth-Praed; Lt.-Colonel H. A. F. Magrath; Dr. P. H. Manson-Bahr; G. M. Mathews; Colonel R. Meinertzhagen; H. Munt; H. R. Munt; D. W. Musselwhite; T. H. Newman; C. Oldham; C. E. Pearson; W. E. Renaut; C. B. Rickett; H. C. Robinson; Lord Rothschild; Sir Malcolm C. C. Seton; A. G. L. Sladen; J. Stewart; C. G. Talbot-Ponsonby; Dr. C. B. Ticehurst; Dr. N. F. Ticehurst; K. G. R. Vaizey; H. F. Witherby.

Guests:—C. T. Baker; B. J. Bettington; R. L.

Finnis ; D. E. W. Gibb ; E. Hartland ; J. E. Hotson ; H. G. Stokes ; Sir Percy Sykes, K.C.B.; T. Wells.

Colonel Stephenson R. Clarke exhibited a Barbet which he proposed to name after Sir Drummond Chaplin, K.C.M.G., Administrator of Southern Rhodesia,

Lybius chaplini, sp. nov.

Crown, neck, all the under parts, axillaries, and under wing-coverts white. Cheeks white, with pointed scarlet tips to many of the feathers. Lores and eyebrows scarlet. Back dark brown interspersed with a few white feathers, which increase in number on the rump. Wings dark brown, broadly margined on the outer web with yellow ; primaries more narrowly margined with the same colour. Tail-feathers dark brown. Bill and feet blackish grey.

Culmen 25 mm., wing 92, tail 57, tarsus 25.

Type in the British Museum. Collected by himself on the Kafue River, North-Western Rhodesia; latitude 16° south, and longitude 26° east. Reported as female by native skinner.

This increases the number of known white-headed Barbets to four. Of these, *L. senex* from British East Africa has a white tail, and none of the four species, except *L. chaplini*, has the face and wing markings resembling those of the black-headed species, *L. rubrifacies*, from Uganda.

Dr. Lowe congratulated Col. Stephenson Clarke on the discovery of as interesting a bird as they had seen for a long time. Whatever its exact status might be found to be in the future, it was just one of those specimens which ought to be treasured as likely to increase our knowledge of the inception of species. He was inclined to think that this specimen might be one of several things :—

(*a*) An isolated instance of hybridism between two

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contingent species, such as *L. rubrifacies* and *L. leucogaster*;

(*b*) A representative of an intermediate or mongrel race with a definite intermediate distribution;

(*c*) A case of a partial albinistic variation of *L. rubrifacies* or some closely allied, but as yet unknown, species.

Mr. W. L. Sclater felt that there were not sufficient grounds for Dr. Lowe's hypothesis, and thought that this bird should come under the ordinary category of a "good species."

Captain H. Lynes, R.N., who is now on his way back to Kordofan, sent for exhibition a new species of Pigmy Bustard, which he proposed to call

Lophotis savilei, sp. nov.

A very small Bustard, allied to the *Lophotis*, nape-tufted group (Sharpe, Cat. B. xxiii. p. 283), whose representatives have hitherto only been found in the eastern parts of Africa (Somali-land to S.E. Africa).

Adult male in breeding-plumage.

Above. General colour light sandy-rufous (light pinkish-cinnamon, *Ridgway*), varied with irregular blackish markings, consisting of (*a*) streaks and arrow-heads on the shafts and irregular sprinklings and small blotches on the webs of the feathers of the back, scapulars, and inner wing-coverts, and (*b*) heavy vermiculations considerably darkening the general appearance of the rump and upper tail-coverts.

Below. From upper part of crop to under tail-coverts, axillaries, flanks, and sides of body black, steel-glossy on breast and belly, elsewhere glossless.

Wing. Quills brownish black, all except the first primary with from one to four comparatively small cream-coloured bars across the inner or both webs. Upper coverts: the (mostly concealed) basal part of the feathers sandy-rufous speckled with blackish, fading to uniform pale cream on the

terminal and visible third so as to form a wide and conspicuous whitish border between the quills and the mottled sandy body. Under surface of wing sepia, uniform save for the pale quill-bars and the lesser coverts, which form a conspicuous black patch extending to the edge and angle of the wing.

Head. Top of head, forehead to occiput, and a small patch between lores and ear-coverts ash-grey; chin and throat nearly white, with a glossy black central streak broadening and terminating abruptly in an oval patch about 12 mm. wide between the cheek-bones. Remainder of head whitish, with tints of sandy or grey or pinkish-buff; the ear-coverts darkest.

Nape with a slightly recurved brush-shaped tuft of pale vinous-red feathers projecting about 15 mm.

Neck behind dull sandy-rufous; in front ash-grey, broadening below to meet the black crop and at the sides shading into the colour of the hind-neck. On each side of the base of neck a small but conspicuous shoulder-strap of pure white (feathers thereby made skewbald), separating the black crop from the sandy-rufous body.

Bill yellowish clay, brownish on culmen.

Feet pale yellowish clay.

Iris pale clay speckled with brown.

The down-feathers are almost entirely coloured rich brick-red by a pigment which is not "fast" and sheds a powdery deposit if the feathers are pressed or moistened, and the same pigment pervades and colours the bases of nearly all the contour-feathers, rhachi included.

Note.—The above description is taken from the type-specimen, which is in moderately worn plumage, about to breed. It is evident from a few new feathers in this and other specimens that when freshly moulted the ground-colour of the upper surface has a somewhat darker and distinctly more vinous (than sandy) tint.

Type. In the British Museum. An adult male from near Nahud, Western Kordofan. Collected on 22nd May, 1920, by Captain Lynes.

Dimensions of the type :—Wing 230 mm., tail 129 mm., tarsus 73 mm., bill 31 mm.

6 specimens collected in Darfur and Western Kordofan.

4 adult males. Wings 230–247 mm., tails 120–129 mm.

1 young male. Wing 230 mm. (very worn), tail 128 mm.

1 male (in spirit).

I name this species in honour of Colonel Savile Pasha, the first British Governor of Darfur.

Dr. C. B. Ticehurst gave a short account of the Avifauna of Mesopotamia, and made the following remarks :—As no doubt many of you are aware I have been engaged for some time past in working out the Birds of Mesopotamia from the field-notes and collections (2500 specimens) made by the British Expeditionary Force during the late war, a long and difficult work which is now nearing completion, and which I hope, early next year, will be published by the Bombay Natural History Society. I thought, therefore, that it might interest members if I made here a few remarks on the subject and exhibited a few of the more interesting birds. Mesopotamia is for the most part alluvial plain, cultivated in the neighbourhood of canals and rivers, or in places given over to scrub jungle, while away from irrigation it is barren and the lower part absolutely stoneless. Above the Median Wall, however, N. of Baghdad, commences undulating tableland more or less stony and rocky, and rocky cliffs are to be found bordering the Tigris, while at Fatah Gorge the Jebel-Hamrin range crosses the Tigris, and running S.E. to Ahwaz, forms the eastern boundary. The western boundary is the edge of the Arabian desert bordering the Euphrates. Trees, except the date palm, are everywhere comparatively scarce. In the plain, due to overflowing of the rivers, there are many large swamps, some permanent, some temporary. Such then, is a rough outline of the country.

The fauna is essentially Palæarctic, and many of the species are those we are accustomed to in Europe. It is,

however, the meeting ground of East and West with a predominance of East. A great many of the winter visitors belong to the eastern forms of European species and a few to the western, and here we have them wintering side by side, as *Saxicola r. rubicola* and *S. r. maura*, *Phylloscopus c. collybita* and *Ph. c. tristis*, etc.; so, too, with passage migrants we find *Ph. t. trochilus* and *Ph. t. eversmanni* passing together, *Muscicapa grisola grisola* and *M. g. neumanni*, etc. While Mesopotamia can boast a goodly list of passage migrants and winter visitors, its breeding species are comparatively few. Some of these are summer visitors, such as *Aëdon g. familiaris* and *Sylvia mystacea* representing the east and *Hirundo rustica* and *Riparia riparia* representing the west; but most species are resident, as *Prinia*, *Crateropus*, *Melanocorypha*, *Galerida*, and many others.

But it is the resident species which are, perhaps, of most interest, as it can be only recently that most of Mesopotamia emerged from the sea. Long ago the Tigris entered the sea 400 miles above where it does now, and in Assyrian times the sea is supposed to have reached Ur of the Chaldees, one hundred and eighty miles from Fao. So it is of peculiar interest to know whence this plain has been populated by its present residents. Some we find have evidently come down from the Persian hills, such as *Pica p. bactriana*, *Crateropus c. huttoni*, some have extended in from Palestine—the *Ammomanes*, *Passer domesticus* and *moabiticus*. Of Indo-Beluchi forms there are a few, such as *Sarcogrammus indicus*, *Prinia g. lepida*, *Coracias benghalensis*, *Alaemon*, etc., while the Ethiopian region contributes *Plotus rufus*, *Pyrrhulauda frontalis*, and perhaps others.

Comparatively few birds have segregated out into local recognizable races, but amongst these are *Ammoperdix*, *Francolinus*, *Corvus c. capellanus*, *Alectoris*, *Pycnonotus leucotis*, but the last two are not quite confined to Mesopotamia, while the only species peculiar are *Acrocephalus babylonicus*, *Crateropus altirostris*, and, more or less, the *Hypocolius*.

Dr. C. B. Ticehurst also described the following new subspecies of Indian birds :—

(1) **Phylloscopus proregulus simlaensis**, subsp. nov.

Differs from *Ph. p. newtoni* in having the upper parts brighter, more olive-yellow, not so dull olive; the head-bands are not so dark, supercilium more pronounced and more sulphur-yellow, also the cheeks ; wing-formula as in *P. p. newtoni*.

Differs from *Ph. p. proregulus* in having a different wing-formula (2nd=9th or 10th) ; more of a yellowish, not so green a shade on the upper parts, supercilium not so bright a yellow colour, and the underparts usually less white.

Type-locality. Simla.

Type. In Brit. Mus. Simla, Nov. 2, 1880 (*Davison*). No. 86. 7. 8. 1193.

Distribution. Gilgit, Cashmere, east to Gharwal.

Gätke's *P. p. newtoni* ('Ibis,' 1889, p. 579), from description is evidently the eastern Himalayan bird. He gives only "India" as type-locality, and this I restrict to Darjheeling.

P. p. simlaensis is a very distinct race, and can be usually separated at a glance.

(2) **Ianthocincla lineatum ziaratensis**, subsp. nov.

Stands nearest to *I. l. gilgit*, but is even paler than that race. It differs in having much paler rusty, not chestnut ear-coverts ; grey, not olive-brown, rump and upper tail-coverts, and grey, not grey-brown, belly ; the markings on the breast paler and *yellower*, not red-brown ; the golden-brown edges to the wings and tail are also somewhat paler. It lacks the white-ticked throat which *I. l. gilgit* has.

Type-locality. The juniper forest of Ziarat, nr. Quetta, N. Baluchistan (8000 ft.).

Type. In Brit. Mus. 1590, ♂ ad. Ziarat, N. Baluchistan, 25. 9. 1919 (*ex coll.* C. B. T.).

A very distinct race and easily separable.

(3) I find the race *Mirafra erythroptera*, which inhabits Sind, is not the same as the bird described by Jerdon ; it has

paler and greyer, less ruddy, and less warm upper parts, and is usually paler on the under-wing, axillaries, flanks, and paler reddish bay on the flight-feathers. I name this race

Mirafra erythroptera sindianus, subsp. nov.

Type. In Brit. Mus. 662, ♂. Karachi, Sind, 15.4.1918. Breeding (*ex coll.* C. B. T.).

Type-locality. Karachi, Sind.

Distribution. Sind, parts of (? whole) Punjab, Jodhpur, east to Etawah.

Jerdon's bird evidently came from the North Deccan, as he says ('Madras Journal of Literature and Science,' 1840, p. 33): "I have only observed this species among the stony and bushy hills or low jungly plains in the northern part of the Deccan. I fix the type-locality therefore of *Mirafra erythroptera erythroptera* as S.E. Berar."

(4) **Tephrodornis pondicerianus pallidus**, subsp. nov.

Differs from the typical form in the paler upper parts and paler brown ear-coverts.

Type-locality. Larkhana, Sind.

Type-specimen. ♂. In Brit. Mus. Larkhana, Sind, 4.2.1871 (*ex* Hume Coll.), No. 86.3.1.2423.

Distribution. Sind, Punjab, Simla, Rajputana, western part of United and Central Provinces.

Gmelin's *Muscicapa pondicerianus* came from Coromandel Coast (Syst. Nat. i. p. 939. 1788), and I restrict the type-locality to Madras.

Blyth's *Tephrodornis affinis*, J. A. S. B. xvi. p. 473 (1847), came from Ceylon. Hume clearly pointed out (Stray Feath. i. p. 435) the distinctiveness of *T. p. affinis*, *T. p. pondicerianus*, and my *T. p. pallidus*, but did not name this north-western bird.

Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker exhibited the eggs of *Perdix sifanica* taken by Chinese N. of Batang in the north-east of Tibet. They were sent to him as the eggs of *Perdix hodgsoniæ*, but, though in appearance they cannot be distinguished from the eggs of that bird, the locality suffices

to prove their identity. They were taken in early July. He also exhibited a clutch of three eggs of *Heliopais personata* taken in the swamps of the Myitmaka River in southern Burma. These extraordinary eggs are like those of the Bustard's in gloss, texture, and shape, but in coloration typical Rails. The nests were Crow-like structures of sticks and twigs built on trees and bushes. Six clutches were found, and a long account of these is given by Mr. Cyril Hopwood, Conservator of Forests, in the 'Bombay Natural History Journal.' The eggs are the first ever taken, with the exception of one abnormal egg shown by the same exhibitor.

Col. Meinertzhagen made the following remarks descriptive of a recent gale in the Outer Hebrides, and its effect on bird-life :—

I was in South Uist on November 15th of this year when we experienced a gale of over 90 miles an hour. Such a wind prevents one standing upright to shoot and made walking against it extremely difficult. We were at times literally carried off our feet, and for safety's sake carried our guns unloaded.

During the morning I visited the extensive grass area, called "machar," and numerous small lochs near the sea. Whooper and Bewick Swan were common and sitting about on land in small parties. If they attempted to rise they were blown away and capsized, only to be rolled along the ground like a huge ball. Golden Plover were blown like chaff before the wind. Ringed Plover, Sanderling, Purple Sandpiper had all come inland, and when compelled to rise were carried down wind like crumpled bits of paper, capsizing whenever they attempted to land again. Mallard could rise, but could not face the wind, and were compelled to go with it. Wigeon and Golden-eye suffered the same fate. Eider-Duck came in from the sea, where they could not have lived for an instant, and were sitting about on the land and on small puddles. The cock Eider was the only bird I saw which could face the wind. I saw it on two occasions, and it was a very fine example of strength and

determination. Birds made about a mile an hour ground-speed, but were at frequent intervals making a minus ground-speed though still facing the wind. Hen Eider failed to face the wind, though I saw many attempt to do so.

Of smaller birds, Twites were in flocks cowering under walls; if disturbed they were dashed to the ground and were in some cases killed against walls and rocks. Blackbirds were in the same predicament. Redwing could rise from the ground, but had to turn with the wind and be blown away out of control.

Life on water for birds was impossible. Gulls were sitting on land with head held low. All Duck were on land or in very small shallow puddles. Geese were in huddled flocks sitting without sentries behind small knolls and hillocks.

Mr. G. R. Humphreys exhibited four clutches of Corn-Buntings' (*Emberiza calandra*) eggs collected by Mr. W. J. Williams in county Dublin. Amongst these was a very handsome clutch of five showing distinct erythrism.

Mr. Humphreys also exhibited a clutch of five, two of which closely resembled Cuckoos' eggs, collected by him in the same county, which were on view and described by him at the eighth Oological Dinner, and explained that Mr. P. F. Bunyard had very carefully examined these and was satisfied they were all Corn-Buntings' eggs.

The Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain made a short statement with regard to the proposed Oxford University Expedition to Spitsbergen in 1921. With the exception of Prof. Koenig's expedition, little has been done in the way of zoological research and much of the country remains still unexplored. It is proposed to carry on the work by means of three parties, from June onward, to investigate the fauna, flora, and geology (especially fossils), and to attempt a traverse of New Friesland. It is estimated that a sum of not less than £3000 would be required, and towards this several substantial promises of help have already been received.

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The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, the 12th of January, 1921, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, the Dinner at 7 p.m. Members intending to dine are requested to inform the Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. L. Bonhote, Park Hill House, Carshalton, Surrey.

[N.B.—Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice *beforehand* to the Editor at Nat. Hist. Museum, South Kensington, and to place in his hands *not later than at the meeting* MSS. for publication in the Bulletin.]

(Signed)

W. L. Sclater, *Chairman.* Percy R. Lowe, *Editor.* J. L. Bonhote, *Sec. & Treas.*

Smithsonian Institution
MAR 25 1921
National Museum

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCLVI.

The two-hundred-and-fifty-third Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48, Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, January 12th, 1921.

Chairman: W. L. Sclater, M.A.

Members present:—E. E. Adams; E. C. Stuart Baker; E. Bidwell; J. L. Bonhote; C. Borrer; P. F. Bunyard; C. Chubb; J. P. Stephenson Clarke; Col. Stephenson R. Clarke; E. C. Hardy; Dr. E. Hartert; G. R. Humphreys; T. Iredale; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain; N. B. Kinnear; H. Langton; Dr. P. R. Lowe (*Editor*); C. W. Mackworth-Praed; Dr. P. H. Manson-Bahr; G. M. Mathews; Colonel R. Meinertzhagen; H. Munt; H. R. Munt; T. H. Newman; F. R. Ratcliffe; C. B. Rickett; H. C. Robinson; Lord Rothschild; D. Seth-Smith; Major A. G. L. Sladen; E. F. Stanford; J. Stewart; Capt. H. F. Stoneham; H. Kirke Swann; C. G. Talbot-Ponsonby; G. de H. Vaizey; K. G. R. Vaizey; H. F. Witherby; R. O. Wynne.

Guests:—C. E. G. Crocker; Capt. F. W. Dewhurst; H. L. Fry; W. P. Grace; J. G. Heyder; G. C. Low; A. W. Mathews.

A General Meeting, with Mr. W. L. Sclater, President, in the Chair, was held immediately after the Dinner.

The Chairman stated that the chief item on the Agenda was the consideration of the Finances, which he regretted to say were not satisfactory. The Balance Sheet drawn up by the late Secretary had been lost, and had not been audited. In conjunction with the present Treasurer a new Statement had been drawn up, which had been carefully considered by the Committee, who recommended its acceptance by the members although unaudited; but should they accept it, this was not to be a precedent for passing future Balance Sheets before they had been audited.

Mr. Bonhote made a short financial statement, pointing out that the Deficit at the end of last Session came to an amount nearly equalling the Subscriptions due for the present Session. He also submitted an estimated expenditure for the current Session, showing that a sum of over £200 would be the normal expenditure in the future, in addition to which there was the deficit to be liquidated. He did not see, therefore, how they could carry on unless the Subscription was raised to One Guinea.

After some discussion the Accounts were passed and the increase of subscription agreed to.

The question of the publication of the Report of the Oological Dinners was next discussed, and it was agreed that these Reports, for two Dinners in each Session, should appear in the 'Bulletin' provided they did not exceed 6 pages each or 12 pages in all; any extra length should be paid for by members interested, through the Secretary of the Oological Section, Mr. C. Borrer.

Lord Rothschild exhibited a new subspecies of "Snipe" from the New Zealand subregion, which he proposed to name

Cœnocorypha aucklandica iredalei, subsp. nov.

Differs from *Cœnocorypha a. aucklandica* in being much darker. The crown and occiput are much blacker, the brown edges to the feathers and the pale stripes being much reduced. The hind-neck, interscapular region, and back have the centres of the feathers black, not brown, and the pale borders much reduced. The wing-coverts are black, not pale cinnamon-brown and the paler edges are almost absent, while the other marking are replaced by transverse narrow bands. The tertials are black narrowly edged with pale buff, with a few indistinct dark rufous bars, not pale buff with a large black subterminal patch and two indistinct black transverse lines. The chin only, not the throat, is unspotted, and the throat and breast are much darker, the feathers being blackish brown edged with buff, not with buff irregularly spotted and streaked with brown. Tail and upper tail-coverts also much darker.

Length of wing 103 mm., bill 50–53 mm.

Hab. Jack Lees Island, New Zealand.

Three specimens received from H. H. Travers.

Type in Tring Museum.

Dr. Ernst Hartert exhibited a new Sunbird, which he described as follows, on behalf of Dr. V. G. L. van Someren:—

Anthreptes yokanæ, sp. nov.

♂ *ad.* Forehead, throat, and upper breast dark metallic blue; rest of crown, mantle, rump, scapulars, and coverts bright olive-green. Primaries, secondaries, and rectrices grey-brown edged with yellowish-olive. Region below the eye and lower half of the ear-coverts yellowish-white. An ill-defined superciliary line of the same colour. Eyelids white. Pectoral tufts pale lemon-yellow. Under surface of body yellowish with olive wash, especially on the flanks. Under tail-coverts yellowish. Bill black, 14 mm. Legs grey-black. Tarsus 15 mm. Wings 55 mm.

♀. Very like the male, but duller and without any metallic feathers and no pectoral tufts. The throat is whitish and the lores grey. Wing 51 mm.

Hab. The Rabai Hills, north of Mombasa. Five specimens were taken.

Type. ♂ ad. Rabai, 10. xi. 1920. V. G. L. van Someren coll. (In Tring Museum.)

Dr. Ernst Hartert also exhibited a Green Bulbul of the genus *Phyllastrephus* which was described by Dr. van Someren and himself as follows:—

Phyllastrephus rabai Hart. & van Som., sp. nov.

♂. Forehead and sides of head ashy grey, crown tinged with green; feathers under the eyes and ear-coverts with indistinct whitish shaft-streaks; in front and above the eyes an indistinct whitish superciliary line. Back, rump, and tail olivaceous green. Primaries dark brown; outer webs similar to the back but brighter and more yellowish green; inner webs edged with pale lemon-yellow. Under wing-coverts lemon-yellow. Throat white. Breast and abdomen greyish white, clouded with yellow; middle of abdomen and under tail-coverts lemon-yellow. Iris red-brown. Bill greyish-horn. Feet greyish olive. Wing 68, tail 63, culmen from skull 15·2, tarsus 19 mm.

♀ considerably smaller.

Hab. Rabai Hills, north of Mombasa, East Africa.

Type. ♂ ad. Rabai, 18. x. 1920. V. G. L. van Someren coll. (In Tring Museum.)

This new *Phyllastrephus* is nearest to *P. albigularis* and *P. leucolæma*, but much smaller; upperside lighter, and tail green instead of rufous-brown.

Mr. H. C. Robinson exhibited some rare birds from the Indo-Malayan subregion, and made the following remarks:—

Batrachostomus poliolophus Hartert.—Collected by Mr. E. Jacobson in Western Sumatra, and hitherto known only from the unique type in Leyden collected by Salomon Müller in the same region over eighty years ago.

Collocalia gigas Hartert & Butler, from the same region and collector. The species, which is the most striking of the genus, is only known from the type, which was obtained from the mountains between Selangor and Pahang in the Malay Peninsula, from another example from W. Java, and I believe from one or two specimens from New Guinea, though I have not yet verified this locality. Mr. Jacobson secured two specimens.

From East Sumatra he exhibited the types of *Cyornis van-heysti* Robinson & Kloss. The species is very distinct and is allied to *C. rufifrons* and *C. beccariana* from Borneo. It was possibly identical with *C. ruecki* Oustalet, described from Malacca, which had never been re-collected. With *C. unicolor*, to which the male has some slight superficial resemblance, it has, of course, nothing to do.

Another species of *Cyornis*, which he owed to the kindness of the authorities of the United States National Museum, was then exhibited : *Cyornis hoevelli* Meyer, originally described by Meyer from the Tahala Mts., Celebes. The species has recently been obtained in considerable numbers by Mr. H. C. Raven in Central Celebes. It is closely allied to *C. hyacinthina* from Timor and *C. kühni* Hartert, from Wetter, but quite distinct from either.

An interesting Owl was *Pisorhina angelinæ* Finsch, from Eastern Java, the specimen exhibited being the second known. It may be regarded as the Javan representative of the group in which is included *P. brookei* from the mountains of Borneo and *P. solokensis* Hartert, from high elevations in Sumatra. Both were rare in collections, but Mr. Kloss and Mr. Robinson had obtained a small series of the latter during their exploration of Korinchi Peak, W. Sumatra, in 1914.

Another interesting bird was a very distinct species of Tree-Babbler, *Stachyris grammiceps* Temm. He knew of no specimens in Europe, except the original types figured by Temminck, and possibly one or two in the Bartels collection in Amsterdam. There were certainly none in England.

Mr. Kloss found it numerous at certain submontane localities in Java early this year, and collected a large series.

Finally there were specimens of another Timeliad bird, *Stachyridopsis melanothorax*, also of extreme rarity. The series belonged to two forms—the typical one from West Java and an East-Javan race, *S. m. intermedia*, which was possibly not separable from the bird described from Bali by Dr. Hartert as *S. m. baliensis*.

The case was interesting as typical of the fact that the faunas of the Island of Bali and that of a considerable area of Eastern Java were more closely related to each other than were the faunas of East and West Java, which are now continuous land-surfaces. The fact was borne out by many species of birds and also of mammals, and pointed to the probability that at a comparatively recent date East and West Java were two islands, and that possibly at about the same date the Bali Straits did not exist.

The differences between East and West Javan forms were of considerable importance in the exact study of Oriental birds. Most of Horsfield's material, on which very many Javan species were founded, was from East or East Central Java; but most of the material from Java in European Museums was from West Java, and until quite recently a uniformity in all Javan specimens of a species had been taken as a matter of course.

During a recent visit to Java Mr. Kloss obtained a series of about 2000 skins from all parts of the island at low elevations; while he had himself obtained a series of about 3000 skins from the elevated areas of the island, and he hoped that detailed study of this material would shortly be commenced.

To show how much remained to be done, even in so classic a country as was Java, he might mention that they had recently obtained large series of so well known a Pigeon as *Treron bisincta* from Eastern Java, though it was not known to occur elsewhere in the Malay Archipelago; while a very striking Thickhead, *Pachycephala fulvotincta*, had also proved to be quite common in the east of the island.

Mr. Clifford D. Borrer exhibited a remarkably large egg of the Common Tern, *S. fluviatilis*, from Norfolk.

Measurements. 52 × 33·3 mm.

Weight. 1·578 mg.

This was probably a record in measurements and weight. For previous records see Bull. B. O. C. vol. xxix. p. 45.

Mr. P. F. Bunyard exhibited a clutch of five eggs of the Meadow-Pipit, *Anthus pratensis*, from Kent, showing true erythrism. He said that this was the first authenticated record for the British Isles, and he then read evidence in support of his statement and exhibited a double nest of the Wheatear, found in a rabbit-hole.

Col. R. Meinertzhagen exhibited a new form of the House-Sparrow from the Sudan :—

Passer domesticus halfæ.

Very similar to *Passer d. arboreus*, but larger and not so bright. Upper tail-coverts and rump are pure smoke-grey, whereas in *P. d. arboreus* these parts nearly always have some chestnut edgings. Back with not such an intense chestnut. Is at once distinguished from *P. d. niloticus*, from the Egyptian Delta, by the larger extent of a brighter, purer chestnut. Differs from *P. d. indicus* in having the top of the head a paler, brighter blue-grey, and in being slightly smaller. Wing of 5 males, 73–80 mm.

Type in the Tring Museum, ♂, Wadi Halfa.

Mr. Witherby exhibited some birds which he had obtained in 1920 in Portugal, and made the following remarks :—

In the 'Ornithologische Monatsberichte,' 1913, p. 124, Dr. H. Weigold described two forms of Skylark, viz. : *Alauda arvensis sierræ*, from the Sierra Nevada, South Spain, and *A. a. taiti*, from Villa Franca on the Tagus, near Lisbon. By the kindness of the authorities of the Berlin Museum

and Dr. Weigold, Dr. Hartert and I have been able to compare two specimens of the form described as *A. a. taiti* and two *A. a. sierræ*, while a third specimen of the latter is in the Tring Museum. All these I exhibit here to-night. Dr. Weigold obtained three specimens of *A. a. sierræ*, but he does not state how many of *A. a. taiti*. He says that *A. a. taiti* is browner on the breast, darker and browner on the upper parts, and longer in the bill than *A. a. sierræ*. Dr. Hartert and I have very carefully examined these birds and we cannot see these differences; in fact, in one *A. a. taiti* the bill is shorter than in either *A. a. sierræ*. All these birds compare exactly with a series of seven breeding Skylarks obtained by Mr. Tait and myself at about 5000 feet, on the Serra da Estrella, a little to the north of the Tagus, in May 1920. They are nearest *A. a. cantarella*, but rather blacker on the upper parts; the wing and tail average smaller and the bill usually slightly longer. The measurements are as follows :—

		Wing.	*Tail.*	*Bill.*
5 ♂♂.	Serra da Estrella	109–112	65–72	14–15·5
2 ♀♀.	Do.	98–107	63–65	14·5–15
1 ♂.	Tagus (*A. a. taiti*)	105	65	15·5
1 ♀.	Do.	98	58	14
2 ♀♀.	Sierra Nevada (*A. a. sierræ*) ..	102–108	63–64	14·5–15
1 no sex.	Do. (Tring coll.) ..	100	61	15·5

If the view is accepted that these birds are the same they must be called *A. a. sierræ*, as that name appears first on page 124, Orn. Monats. 1913.

The Skylark is a very local breeding bird in the Spanish Peninsula. We saw one on a moor at Abrantes, on the Tagus, but this I was unable to obtain. At the end of May, at Bom Jesus (about 1500 ft.), near Braga, north of Oporto, my wife and I found a considerable number breeding, and these are very different from the more southern birds described above. They have considerably longer bills, a greater amount of black on the upper parts and wings, they are more tinged with tawny brown, and not so grey on the feather-edges, especially on the rump, while the streaks on

the breast and flanks are generally broader and with more tawny marks. As compared with *A. a. arvensis* and *A. a. cantarella*, they have longer bills and much darker upper parts, and are dull white on the underparts without the buffish tinge of *A. a. arvensis*. The measurements are as follows :—

	Wing.	*Tail.*	*Bill.*
8 ♂♂. Bom Jesus, Braga, North Portugal.	106–112	61–70	16–17

This form I propose to call

Alauda arvensis guillelmi, subsp. nov.

Type. ♂. May 29, 1920, Bom Jesus, Braga. In my collection.

Named in honour of Mr. William C. Tait, of Oporto.

Dr. Hartert, who has very kindly examined the whole series of these Skylarks, confirms my conclusions.

I also have to exhibit four male Pied Flycatchers, which we found breeding on May 7, 1920, at Manteigas, in a little valley at the southern foot of the Serra da Estrella. This bird was not previously known to breed in Portugal and must be very local. I was surprised to find that these birds belonged to the north-African form *Muscicapa hypoleuca speculigera*. The Pied Flycatcher is not known to breed to the south of the Tagus, in the Peninsula, but it appears to be so local that it might very easily be overlooked. One specimen by its brownish wings is evidently a first summer bird, and it is interesting to note that in this the white is absent from the 3rd to 5th primaries and the outer tail-feathers are edged with white, so that the wings and tail, which are part of the unmoulted juvenile plumage, are like those of the typical form, while the white forehead-spot is large, as in *speculigera*.

We also found the Common Redstart breeding, a pair here and there between Oporto and the Tagus. This bird was also previously not known to breed in Portugal. Two males which I obtained, one at Manteigas and one at

Abrantes, and now exhibit, both have the 6th primary 4 mm longer than the 2nd, this being a characteristic of *Phœnicurus ph. algeriensis*, if that is found to be a good form.

I also exhibit a nestling in down of the Purple Heron (*Ardea p. purpurea*) from a colony breeding in a marshy lake, near Torres Novas, on the north bank of the Tagus.

Mr. D. A. Bannerman sent the following description of a new race of *Eurystomus afer* from the highlands of Central Abyssinia which he proposed to name :—

Eurystomus afer praedi, subsp. nov.

Adult male. Similar to *E. afer afer* and *E. afer æthiopicus*, but the entire upper parts several shades darker chestnut than in the typical form, and many shades darker than in *E. a. æthiopicus*, closely approaching in shade the colour of the upper parts in *Eurystomus gularis gularis*. The upper tail-coverts much darker blue and in the type-specimen almost black. In the adult birds from Gofa and Walamo, the central tail-coverts are deep chestnut, but in the type from Guatti they are almost black. Under surface much deeper purple and less mauve than in *E. a. æthiopicus*, and than the majority of specimens of *E. a. afer*, the darkest examples of which nearly approach it however. Bill yellow, iris brown, legs greenish yellow. Wing 188 mm. ; bill (exposed culmen) 22 ; tarsus 43. (The adult female from Gofa has a wing of 180 mm.)

Immature male. Upper parts similar to the adult ; upper tail-coverts black, outer feathers fringed with blue. Under surface, throat, and chest chestnut-brown ; breast and belly dull greenish blue. All the feathers of the under surface, from the throat to the under tail-coverts, have dark shaft-streaks. Upper mandible and tip of lower mandible dusky horn-colour.

We have four examples of this new race in the British Museum : the type from Guatti, Central Abyssinia (Blundell Lovat Expedit.), recorded by Ogilvie-Grant as *E. afer* (Ibis, 1900, p. 318), and three from Walamo (6200 ft.). Kaffa

(5400 ft.), and Goffa (5500 ft.), S.W. Abyssinia (Zaphiro coll. for W. N. Macmillan).

It is worthy of note that this mountain race is entirely cut off from the typical species—its closest ally—by the three East African races *E. a. æthiopicus*, *E. a. rufibuccalis*, and *E. a. suahelicus*, from all of which it can be distinguished at a glance.

The type is in the British Museum collection. ♂ ad., No. 452. Guatti, Abyssinia, 27 March, 1899. H. W. Blundell and Lord Lovat colls.

I name this bird in honour of Mr. Cyril Mackworth-Praed, who, with Mr. Sclater, was the first to note (Ibis, 1919, p. 674) the distinctness of the single specimen which came to their notice.

Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker described the following new subspecies of Sunbirds (Nectariniidæ) :—

1. **Cyrtostomus pectoralis blanfordi**, subsp. nov.

Like *C. p. pectoralis* (Horsf.), but distinguished at a glance by its huge bill. From forehead to tip of bill 20·5 to 22·0 mm. With the exception of one bird from Flores, which has a bill almost 20·0 mm. in length, no other specimen has it exceeding 19 mm. This new race has also the upper parts a shade brighter olive-green.

Type. ♂: No. 1886.12.1.970, Hume Coll., British Museum. Nicobars.

Type locality. Kondol Is., Nicobars.

Distribution. Kondol Is. only.

Examined. 4 ♂ and 4 ♀.

2. **Æthopyga ignicauda flavescens**, subsp. nov.

Similar to *Æ. i. ignicauda*, but with the breast and lower parts much paler, more a lemon-yellow than an orange-yellow, and with much less scarlet-crimson on the breast. Size as in that bird.

The females have the tails much redder than it is any typical *ignicauda*.

Type. ♂. 19.3.04. Rippon Coll., British Museum. 1905.9.10.959.

Type-locality. Mt. Victoria, Chin Hills.

Distribution. Not yet known. Probably Chin and Kachin Hills, about 9000 feet.

Examined. 8 ♂, 7 ♀.

There is a single male in the Museum collection, from Yunnan, which has the breast a far richer scarlet than it is in any other specimen I have ever seen. With more material, the Yunnan race may be found to be constantly different.

GENERAL INDEX.

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BULLETIN

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Chairman: Lord Rothschild.

Members present:—E. C. Stuart Baker; E. Bidwell; J. L. Bonhote; C. Borrer; F. D. Bradford; P. F. Bunyard; J. S. Clarke; C. H. B. Grant; Rev. J. R. Hale; E. C. Hardy; Dr. E. Hartert; N. B. Kinnear; G. C. Lambert; Dr. H. Langton; Dr. P. R. Lowe (*Editor*); Lt.-Col. H. A. F. Magrath; Dr. P. H. Manson-Bahr; G. M. Mathews; Lt.-Col. R. Meinertzhagen; H. Munt; C. Oldham; C. W. Mackworth-Praed; A. E. Price; W. E. Renaut; C. B. Rickett; H. C. Robinson; Major A. G. L. Sladen; F. W. Smalley; H. Kirke Swann; C. G. Talbot-Ponsonby; Dr. C. B. Ticehurst; H. F. Witherby.

Guests:—H. O. Arkwright; Dr. J. Beven; Lord Wm. Percy.

On behalf of the members of the Oological Club, Mr. C. Borrer made a statement to the effect that they would be willing to pay for the printing of anything over and above

the six pages which the B. O. C. had promised to insert in the 'Bulletin,' twice a session, in connection with the reporting of the proceedings of the Oological Club. The cost of the Report of the Proceedings of the Oological Club in connection with the Dinner held in the month of September would be entirely defrayed by the Oological Club, as the limit of twelve pages for last year had already been exceeded.

Mr. J. H. Gurney drew attention to some ancient drawings of birds and other animals, supposed to be from eight to ten thousand years old, which had been discovered by Colonel Willoughby Verner and the Abbé Breuil in the caverns of southern Spain, and remarked that they were of Neolithic origin.

Lord Rothschild and Dr. Ernst Hartert exhibited a new Thrush from Ceram, which they described as follows :—

Turdus joiceyi, sp. nov.

Adult. Upperside dark chestnut-brown, merging into brownish slaty-black on the back and rump. Wings brownish-black with indistinct pale brown narrow edges to the outer webs ; middle row of upper wing-coverts with white tips, forming one white bar across the wing. Rectrices brownish-black. Sides of head and neck, chin, throat, fore-neck, chest, and sides dull black, the latter with white fringes to the feathers ; middle of breast and abdomen white, under tail-coverts dull black with wide white tips ; under wing-coverts black, the outer ones with white tips. Bill (in skin) black, legs and feet dark brown. Wing 93 mm., tail 65, culmen from forehead 21, tarsus 35·5.

Hab. Ceram.

Type collected by the brothers Pratt in the high mountains of Ceram, during their collecting expedition for Mr. Joicey, to whom the Tring Museum is obliged for the type-specimen.

This Thrush was twice seen by Stresemann during his successful expedition, but was not secured. It is a near

ally of *T. dumasi* from Buru, which, however, has the entire upperside rufous-brown, two white bars across the wings, the flanks olivaceous, under tail-coverts pure white, and olivaceous under wing-coverts; also a distinct white base to the secondaries and brownish flesh-coloured legs and feet.

Mr. H. C. Robinson read the following communication on behalf of Mr. C. Boden Kloss :—

On p. 32 of the present volume of the 'Bulletin' Mr. Sclater recorded an example of *Baza lophotes burmana* from "Mi Nam Kabren, Siam." Since no such place-name occurs in Siam, and therefore cannot be found (as I pointed out so recently as in Vol. xxxviii. p. 65), it is advisable to note in this volume that the locality for the specimen is the "Banks of the Bangpakong River near Krabin, Siam."

Further, as touching the type-localities of the new genus, species (?), and subspecies of birds (*Nigravis*, etc.) described by Mr. Baker from Mr. E. G. Herbert's collection (*antea*, pp. 10, 11), the details given are such that very few readers indeed could trace the places recorded, and it would have been advisable if Mr. Baker had indicated that the birds were obtained during an expedition along that part of the Mekong River which borders, or is adjacent to, Siam. As it happens, the type-localities are not even in Siam as stated: that of *Nigravis herberti*, Ban Sao (or Ban Na Sao), is in French Laos about 40 miles north-east of the town of Pak Hin Bun (lat. 17° 35′ N.) on the Mekong.

The localities of the co-types of *Picus rubricollaris* are: ♂, Ban Hoi Mak, about 10 miles north-east of Pak Hin Bun; and ♀, Muang Liep on the Mekong (lat. 18° 20′ N.), both also in French Laos.

[I submit for consideration that even to obtain a type of each sex, it is scarcely legitimate to cite as co-types of a species two specimens from localities so far apart—in this case twenty-four days' journey, or roughly 200 miles.]

The type-locality of *Schœniparus rufigularis major* is

Pak Mat on the Mekong, about 25 miles northwards of Muang Liep ; also in French Laos.

Since the 'Bulletin' of 9th November arrived in Kuala Lumpur, Mr. W. J. F. Williamson has sent me four examples of *Nigravis herberti* from Ban Na Sao and two specimens of *S. r. major* from Pak Mat.

The wings of the former (2 ♂, 2 ♀) measure flattened 73, 71, 71, 70 mm. ; the 5th to 8th or 5th to 9th primaries are subequal ; tail, central feathers, 74, 78, 71, 73—outermost feathers when unworn 57–60 ; tarsus 25·5, 24, 25, 25·5 ; bill from gape 23, 22, 21·5, 22. "Iris brown, bill blue (? plumbeous), feet brown."

Mr. Baker is surely out of order in not characterizing separately the new genus and species.

Two females of *S. r. major* have wings 62·5 and 60 mm. "Iris dull reddish brown, bill black, feet pale pinkish fleshy."

The new species "*Picus rubricollaris*" appears to be either *Gecinus rabieri* Oustalet (Bull. Mus. d'Hist. Nat. 1898, p. 12 ; Nouv. Arch. du Mus. (4) i. 1899, p. 255, pl. 7), based on two females from Tonkin, or a slightly differentiated race.

Mr. P. F. Bunyard exhibited a series of twenty-five typical and aberrant clutches of the eggs of the Blackcap, *S. atricapilla*, to demonstrate the importance of studying varieties, and made the following remarks :—As the type-eggs of most British species are already sufficiently well known, and as their characteristics have been frequently well described and figured, it is now increasingly important that Oologists should turn their attention to a closer study of the varieties and aberrations which frequently occur in the eggs of many species, as I am convinced that from these eggs, and these eggs alone, we shall ultimately wrest from nature her hidden secrets of pigmentation. The study of varieties as an aid to identification is very important, many Oologists are quite unable to identify a variety clutch simply because only the type is known to them.

He then went on to say that he did not consider that almost pure white Blackcap eggs were reversions; he thought they were probable due to loss of pigment in very old birds, hence their rarity, as very few birds lived to the age at which they were produced.

In the series they would see one clutch of aberrant eggs which were closely allied to Sedge-Warblers' eggs; two, however, had the characteristic brownish-black specks, which at once gave the clue to Blackcap eggs; and it was seldom that an aberrant clutch did not contain at least one or more eggs, which gave the clue to the type. These superimposed specks or dots were characteristic of Blackcap eggs, but the same markings, however, sometimes lay beneath the glutinous layer, which gave them the appearance of having a penumbra. They were seldom found on the eggs of *S. simplex*.

A discussion followed in which some members challenged Mr. Bunyard's theory upon the subject of loss of pigment in old birds.

Mr. D. A. Bannerman sent the description of two new races of the Weaver-bird, *Malimbus rubricollis*, from West Africa, which he characterised as follows :—

Malimbus rubricollis nigeriæ, subsp. nov.

Adult male. Most nearly allied to *M. r. bartletti* from the Gold Coast, but the colour of the head is a lighter and brighter shade of crimson. It is also distinguished from the typical form of *M. rubricollis rubricollis* by the colour of the head having no trace of the orange-scarlet shade exhibited in that bird. *M. r. nigeriæ* is absolutely intermediate between the two forms, but in the large series before me inclines more towards *M. r. bartletti* than to the typical form. The female differs from the male in having a broad black frontal band as in all races of *M. rubricollis*.

Type. ♂ adult, no. 94 in the British Museum. Iju Water Works, near Lagos. 31st Dec., 1919. Willoughby P. Lowe Coll. Bill (exposed culmen) 20 mm., tarsus 26, wing 105.

Range. Southern Nigeria (Lagos, Oguta, Degama, Gregani).

Note.—24 specimens of this new race have been compared with a large series of the other forms referred to, the characters noted being absolutely constant.

Malimbus rubricollis praedi, subsp. nov.

Adult male. Similar to *Malimbus rubricollis centralis* Rchw., from Uganda, having the red on the head of the same shade as in that race, but easily distinguished by its much smaller size.

Wing-measurements are as follows:—♂ 90–95 mm., ♀ 91–94. (The wing-measurements of *M. r. centralis* vary in 14 specimens from ♂ 98–102 mm., average of 11 skins 99·9.)

Type. ♂ ad. No. 1909. 8. 5. 234 in the British Museum. N'Dalla Tando, N. Angola. 29th Oct., 1908. W. J. Ansorge Coll.

Bill (exposed culmen) 17 mm., tarsus 22, wing 95.

Range. Northern Angola and Gaboon.

Obs. Eleven specimens were available for comparison in the British and Tring Museums.

I have named this subspecies in honour of Mr. Cyril Mackworth-Praed, who first noticed the distinctness of the West African race.

Mr. C. Chubb sent the following descriptions of South American birds :—

Pseudosicalis, gen. nov.

When the late Dr. Bowdler Sharpe was compiling vol. xii. Fringillidæ of the Catalogue of the Birds in the British Museum, he divided the genus *Sicalis* by using *Pseudochloris* to replace *Orospina* Cab., 1883 (nec Kaup, 1829), which latter genus was founded on *O. pratensis* Cab. This species, however, belongs to the genus *Sicalis* Wagl. Consequently *Pseudochloris* Sharpe becomes a synonym. I propose, therefore, that the above title be used, based on

P. auriventris (Phil. & Landb.) as the type. It differs from *Sicalis flaveola* (Linn.) chiefly in its wing-formula, in which the outer primary-quills are much longer than the innermost secondaries, while in *S. flaveola* they are about equal, and in having a longer and more pointed bill.

Notiocorys abariensis, sp. nov.

Adult male. Allied to *N. lutescens* (Lesson), but differs in being generally paler on the upper surface and inclining to rust-brown, instead of blackish, and in being fawn-colour on the under surface, instead of pale lemon-yellow, and the dark streaks on the breast not so pronounced.

Total length 129 mm., exposed culmen 11, wing 64, tail 51, tarsus 21.

Habitat. British Guiana.

The type of this new Pipit, which is in the McConnell collection, was collected on the Abary River in November 1906.

Dr. C. B. Ticehurst exhibited some specimens of Indian birds and made the following remarks:—

1. Young in down of the Common Indian Sandgrouse (*Pterocles senegallensis*=*exustus* auct.).

So far as I am aware, the chicks of this Sandgrouse have not been described, nor do I know of any specimens other than these in existence. The down is of two kinds: in the upper parts it is compound or tufted, on the underparts (except the throat and chin) along the edge of the wing and on the tibiæ it is longer, simpler, and more hair-like. Above, the coloration is pale ginger, broken up by white patterns and lines which are invariably "picked out" by black down. Underparts isabelline white, darkest on the throat. The exact pattern does not lend itself well to written description, but I am in hopes that perhaps a coloured plate of the chick may appear in my account of the birds of Sind later on. I would, however, call attention to the white "figure of eight" on the crown and another on the back, both outlined by black down and enclosing in the circles ginger-coloured down. In the

plate of the chick of *Syrrhaptes paradoxus* (Newton, 'Ibis,' 1890, p. 214), which I pass round for comparison, a similar sort of "figure of eight" pattern is shown.

These chicks were obtained in Sind on 25th May, 1919.

2. Young in down of *Sterna saundersi*.

The chick of this Tern, if known at all, is sufficiently rare and of interest to bring before you. I show for comparison a chick of *Sterna albifrons* (=*minuta*), the Little Tern. It would appear that the chick of the former is rather yellower in tone, though the pattern is similar. Both these chicks of *S. saundersi* show this, but one needs a few more chicks of *S. albifrons* to see if the colour is ever as yellow as these are, as chicks of Terns vary somewhat.

I also show you chicks of Gull-billed, Caspian, and Common Terns. It is curious to note the tendency to a blackish throat in all three species, which is never attained in any other plumage.

Note also the differences in the pattern: the Common Tern most heavily marked, the Caspian least so of all, having hardly any dark markings, and the Gull-billed intermediate in this respect: note, too, the pure white tips to the wings of the latter which the others lack, and the relatively stouter feet and bill in the Caspian Tern. (The chick of the Common Tern is an English specimen.)

3. Saunders' Tern.

There has been a great deal of confusion in the literature as regards this little Tern, because I think the characteristics of it have not been fully grasped. The upper parts are paler than in *S. albifrons*, the *three* outer primaries are jet-black and pure white, with a very sharp division between the patterns; in *S. albifrons* the outer *two* only are usually blackish and not so sharply divided from, but shading off into, the white on the inner webs. Sometimes, however, the outer three primaries are blackish (and such birds have frequently passed as *S. saundersi*), as in one I exhibit from Sussex. But in these the demarcation of black and white is

not sharp as in *S. saundersi*. Then, too, in *S. albifrons* these blackish primaries are often, when fresh, "frosted," which *S. saundersi* hardly ever shows a trace of. Again, in *S. saundersi* the feet and legs are *yellowish-brown*, not bright yellow as in *S. albifrons*, and this distinction is invariable and shows even in these skins ; and there are slight differences in the bill.

S. saundersi breeds at Karachi in Sind, whence the type came, and the only other specimens I have seen from elsewhere are from Port Sudan.

4. Some Indian Wagtails.

(*a*) *Citreola* group. It has been frequently stated and copied from book to book that the winter specimens of the Yellow-headed Wagtail (*M. citreola*) and Hodgson's Yellow-headed Wagtail (*M. citreoloides*) cannot with certainty be distinguished from each other, but that they can be differentiated from other Wagtails by their longer tarsi. Neither statements are true. *M. citreola* has *not* a longer tarsus than others of the Yellow Wagtail group, but *M. citreoloides* has—also a longer bill ; hence it follows that *M. citreoloides can* be told from *M. citreola* in all plumages by the superior size of bill, tarsi, and—I may add—feet.

The old name *Budytes calcarata* of Hodgson ('Asiatic Research,' xix. p. 190, 1836) has been discarded as being indefinite and applicable to either of these two birds in winter dress, but this is not so. An examination of Hodgson's original description clearly shows that his bird must have been what we now call *M. citreoloides*. He says the tarsus measures 1·19 in. (=30 mm.), which measurement could not possibly apply to *M. citreola*, and will apply well for *M. citreoloides*. Hodgson was a very careful ornithologist, and knew perfectly well what he was about when he called his bird *Budytes calcarata*—a bird with a noticeably long tarsus and hind claw, such as this bird has. In my opinion, *M. calcarata* must stand for this Wagtail's name.

M. citreola cannot be confused with other Indian or European Yellow Wagtails at any state of plumage, as it

always has, in every age, season, and sex, at least a yellow supercilium and some yellow on the chin and throat, and nearly always on the forehead.

(*b*) First winter *M. melanogriseus*. This plumage seems to me to be very distinctive, but is often confused with that of other Wagtails. Both sexes lack all olive-green on the upper parts and all yellow on the underparts. The colorations, unlike the *flava* group, are grey and white—whitish supercilia and underparts, grey back, and slate-grey rump.

THE EIGHTH OOLOGICAL DINNER.

The Eighth Oological Dinner was held at Pagani's Restaurant on 8th September, 1920. Dr. H. Langton took the Chair in the unavoidable absence of the Lord Rothschild, thirty-four gentlemen being present.

The Chairman, after his opening remarks, exhibited fourteen clutches of Chaffinchs' eggs showing extreme variation.

Mr. P. B. Smyth exhibited a fine series of the Corn-Bunting.

Colonel R. Sparrow showed a series of eggs, including :—

C/4. *C. carduelis africanus* (Algiers, April 1920).
C/2. *S. hortulanus* (Tunis, 20.iv.20, very boldly marked).
C/3. *C. c. chlorotica* (Haifa, Palestine, 15.iv.19).
C/2. *Fringillaria capensis.*
C/2. *Fringillaria tahapisi.*
C/3. *E. cirlus* (Somme, France, a fine erythristic set, 6.v.16).

Dr. Percy Rendall exhibited :—

(*a*) Two eggs of Little Owl (Herefordshire), half incubated and quite black, with small portions of the elytra of beetles adhering to their roughened shells.

(*b*) Tawny Owl (Somerset), well marked with genuine brown pigment.

(*c*) Kestrel (Wilts), a remarkable set with two eggs sparsely marked on clear white ground.

(*d*) Merlin (Orkney), a set of three, of which two eggs were marked at the small ends only.

Mr. Clifford Borrer and Mr. G. K. Baynes showed a good series of Linnets' eggs, the erythristic type of the Crossbill (Muir of Ord, Ross.), and a rare type of the Yellow-Hammer (Cley, Norfolk).

Mr. W. Norman May exhibited a fine series of Corn-Bunting, taken by himself in Berkshire.

Mr. H. M. Wallis showed some interesting eggs, including North African Greenfinch, North African Chaffinch, Mealy Redpoll (Norway), Tree-Sparrow (Sutherland), Canary (Teneriffe), Serin (Pyrenees), Saharan House-Bunting (El Kantara), Italian Sparrow (Varese), Brambling (two fine sets from Dovrefeld).

Mr. H. Massey exhibited the following eggs :—

(*a*) A fine series of Hawfinch, including the rare blue-grounded and creamy-buff types ; also a set with Cuckoo.

(*b*) Eight sets of Bullfinch, including a Cuckoo set.

(*c*) Six picked sets of Greenfinch : one white set, one blue, and one with Cuckoo.

(*d*) Series of Goldfinch, including a self-blue set and a Cuckoo set.

(*e*) Wonderful series of thirty Chaffinch sets, including some rare phases.

(*f*) Twite, twelve sets, including white eggs and a Cuckoo set.

(*g*) Series of Lesser Redpoll, Mealy Redpoll, Hoary Redpoll, and Greenland Redpoll.

(*h*) Set of Snowfinch.

Mr. E. T. Crosoer showed a series of Yellow-Hammer eggs from Kent and Essex. Among these was an extraordinary clutch of four, taken by the exhibitor near Chelmsford in May 1920. The ground-colour was "Bullfinch" blue with faint underlying lilac markings and surface-spots, and lines of sepia and sienna.

Mr. Edgar Chance exhibited a series of Cuckoo eggs with Meadow-Pipit fosterers, taken by himself during the past three seasons. It is probable that this is the finest series ever made by a single collector, and particulars of these eggs and the conclusions Mr. Chance has drawn from them will be found in 'British Birds' Magazine.

Mr. C. V. Stoney exhibited a series of Crossbills' eggs from Co. Wicklow, together with the first recorded nest from Co. Dublin. Also a fine series of eggs from Co. Donegal, including Chaffinch, Bullfinch, and Goldfinch (including albinisms), Twite, Lesser Redpoll, Siskin, and Tree-Sparrow, showing great variation and many rare types.

Mr. Geo. R. Humphreys exhibited a clutch of five Corn-Bunting, *Emberiza c. calandra*, collected by him in County Dublin on 29th May, 1920, which is an early date for Ireland.

Three of the eggs were of the normal type, with ground-colour of greyish-white suffused with light brown and showing dark brown spots and lines. The remaining two were devoid of the dark blue markings, and so closely resembled a type of the egg of the Cuckoo that certain members present declared them to be Cuckoos' eggs.

Mr. P. F. Bunyard, who subsequently very carefully examined the clutch and made comparisons of the weights and texture of the grain of the shell, states, without the slightest doubt, all the eggs are those of the Corn-Bunting.

Mr. H. Kirke Swann exhibited a pair of eggs of *Aquila rapax albicans* from Lahej, South Arabia, together with a pair of the typical form (*A. rapax rapax*) from South Africa, and a few eggs of the Indian form (*A. rapax vindhiana*), which is, of course, commoner in collections. He also showed three eggs of the Griffon-Vulture (*Gyps fulvus fulvus*), taken in Spain this year by himself, showing an extreme variation in size. The birds were put off the two larger eggs, which were incubated, but not off the small one, which was fresh when found on April 7th, an unusually late date.

Captain Lynes, R.N., exhibited a small collection of eggs obtained by him during the visit he made to the Middle Atlas in 1919, and described in 'The Ibis' of Jan. 1920.

The exhibit included the following novelties :—

Eremophila alpestris atlas Whitaker. Atlas Shore-Lark.
Parus ater atlas Meade-Waldo. Atlas Coal-Tit.
Sitta europæa atlas Lynes. Atlas Nuthatch.
Erithacus rubecula atlas Lynes. Atlas Robin.

And probably in this category should also be included the eggs of the Skylark, a southern race whose exact status is yet undetermined.

The chief interest of the remainder, which were eggs of well-known British species, lay in their illustrating the fact that, although in the majority of cases belonging to quite distinct southern races of the birds, they differed, if at all, only in small degree from the eggs laid by the northern forms.

These included :—

Chaffinch Race. *Fringilla cœlebs africana* Lev.
Wren Race. *Troglodytes t. kabylorum* Hart.
Tree-Creeper Race. *Certhia brachydactyla mauretanica* With.
Great-Tit Race. *Parus major excelsus* Buvry.
Subalpine Warbler Race. *Sylvia cantellans inornata* Temm.
Wheatear Race. *Saxicola œnanthe seebohmi* Dixon.
Redstart Race. *Phœnicurus phœnicurus algeriensis* Klein.
Pied-Flycatcher Race. *Muscicapa atricapilla speculigera* Bp.
Nightjar Race. *Caprimulgus europeus meridionalis* Hart.

Mr. R. H. Read exhibited a series of nests and eggs, including a fine nest and four eggs of the Parrot-Crossbill from Sweden, Pine Grosbeak, Mealy Redpoll, Ortolan, Lap-

land and Reed-Bunting, the last-named with seven eggs from Norway. Also three nests of the Brambling from Norway, exhibiting great variety in their construction and in the marking and coloration of the eggs. Nests of Snow-Bunting from Iceland and of Cirl-Bunting from Corsica and Dorsetshire, Scarlet Finch from Eastern Europe, Wild Canary and Madeira Chaffinch from Madeira ; nests of the Bullfinch with five white eggs from Surrey, and white with red spots from Somerset; Goldfinch from Spain, Corsica, and Kent—the British specimens both of nest and eggs being much larger than the South European ones.

Mr. Read also exhibited a series of eggs without nests, those of the Yellow Hammer and Chaffinch especially showing many fine varieties and curious specimens.

Mr. C. J. Carroll exhibited :—

(*a*) A series of Siskins' eggs from Ireland, showing much variation in markings. It was remarked that these eggs were brighter and more richly marked than Scotch or English eggs.

(*b*) A series of Crossbill eggs from Ireland, showing both green and white ground-colours. Some eggs were very heavily marked.

(*c*) A small series of eggs of the Grey Wagtail from Co. Tipperary.

(*d*) Two sets of Yellow Buntings from Co. Tipperary, one very pale sparsely marked set, the other heavily pigmented.

(*e*) A small series of eggs of Reed-Buntings from Co. Tipperary, one beautiful set with thick lines heavily "laid on."

(*f*) A set of five Corn-Buntings from Co. Waterford, with heavily pigmented tops.

(*g*) A set of six Hawfinch from Kent, with the flesh-coloured ground.

(*h*) A very boldly-marked set of Bullfinch from Co. Tipperary.

(*i*) A series of Chaffinch, including a very fine set of the Bullfinch-type from Gloucester, and a set of five dwarf eggs from Co. Waterford.

(*k*) A set of five nicely scrolled eggs of the Twite from Co. Waterford.

(*l*) A beautiful set of five Lesser Redpoll from Co. Tipperary, clear blue and almost spotless.

The Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain exhibited the following eggs :—*Fringilla c. cœlebs*, set of 5 (Bullfinch type), set of 6 (Blue type) ; *Pyrrhula p. pileata*, sets of 5 (normal and Greenfinch types), also several sets of *Carpodacus* and *Propasser* ; *P. p. murina* (unique set), a clutch of 4 eggs of *Loxia curvirostra balearica* (hitherto unknown) ; *Emberiza calandra*, set of 4 (unmarked), set of 6 (mixed types) ; also sets of *E. cioides castaneiceps*, *E. c. ciopsis*, etc., and some exceptionally large sets of *Passer domesticus* (7), *P. montanus* (8), and *Petronia petronia* (8). Also a number of eggs illustrating a paper on the importance of the study of variation from the normal type in eggs.

The following is a *résumé* of the paper :—

The Entomologists of Hewitson's day were accustomed to reject specimens of Lepidoptera which seemed to them non-typical, all varieties being sternly eliminated from the cabinet, but now the pendulum has swung to the other extreme, and it may almost be said that in some collections the normal type is conspicuous by its absence. Mr. E. C. S. Baker has recently written on the importance of illustrating the type, with regard to colouring, and we may fairly add that with regard to the number of eggs in the clutch it is equally necessary. A series of British Cirl-Buntings entirely composed of sets of 5, or of Arctic Terns, all sets of 3, is misleading and not representative of the species. No collection has any pretence to completeness unless the typical or commonest type is represented. To-night, however, I wish to speak a few words on the importance of the variations. Their extraordinary beauty alone will always ensure the existence of collectors and admirers, but there is something more than this in them.

To take a few examples. There are eggs of *Emb. citrinella* which are almost exact counterparts of those of *E. cirlus*.

There are also *cirlus*-eggs which approach pretty closely to the *citrinella* type, but these are naturally not so popular with collectors. So with *Pyrrhula* eggs: one type is practically indistinguishable from that of *Chloris*; while the rare erythristic variety with brown markings on a white ground resembles the normal type of some of the Indian forms exhibited by Mr. E. C. S. Baker. The blue type of Spotted Flycatcher's egg is not unlike the normal type of the Pied Flycatcher, while the spotless eggs of our Song-Thrush recall those of some American species. Among some eggs from Mesopotamia are eggs of a Reed-Warbler which have all the character of a boldly-marked Marsh-Warbler's egg.

In some groups the eggs are much alike. For instance, the eggs of the Falcons stand oologically close to one another in colouring, and some overlapping is natural. While there are many eggs of each species which can be readily picked out and correctly identified, there remain a few which leave the most expert at fault. As a rule, eggs of the Lesser Kestrel can be distinguished with certainty from those of the Common Kestrel, yet those exhibited to-night, although possessing the appearance of Lesser Kestrels, in reality belong to the larger species.

But a far more remarkable case occurs among the Sand-Plovers. Here we have, in the case of the Kestrel, Ringed and Lesser Ringed, three very different types of egg, and as a rule each species adheres closely to its type. But to my great astonishment, among a large series of eggs of Kentish Plover found in the Balearic Isles by Mr. P. W. Munn, were no fewer than 11 eggs from several pairs of birds, which agree exactly with eggs of the Lesser Ringed Plover. Mr. Munn took the greatest pains to identify these eggs, and it is interesting to find that no ornithologist since Homeyer's day has recorded the latter species from these islands, though many have visited the spot where these eggs were taken.

One of the stock accusations against Oology is that the study of eggs is futile, as one cannot invariably tell from the egg by what species of bird it was laid. This is, of course, true in some cases, but a broader view will show that this

very point gives much additional interest to the study of eggs. If the exhibition of a representative series of clutches of our Bullfinch and its allies can show us that the Bullfinches form a distinct group, showing perhaps closest affinities with *Pinicola*, but obviously connected also with *Carpodacus*, *Propasser*, and *Uragus*, and on the other side approaching the *Rhodopechys* and *Erythrospiza* group, while more distant relationship is indicated to such genera as *Chloris*, *Fringilla*, and *Loxia*, surely we must be deeply prejudiced if we fail to appreciate the value and interest of characters of this kind.

Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker exhibited the following eggs of Asiatic Finches and Buntings :—

The first eggs shown are those of Oberholser's genus *Perissospiza*, which takes the place of *Pycnorhamphus* of Blanford and Oates. *P. i. icteroides* eggs are now pretty well known, but those of *P. carnipes* are extremely rare, only some half-dozen or so clutches having been taken so far. They may be distinguished from those of *P. icteroides* by their redder tinge and smaller size, though doubtless bigger series of both might show overlapping. The two eggs shown of *Mycerobas melanoxanthus* are, I believe, unique. They were taken by myself in N. Cachar, and they differ so much from the eggs of *Perissospiza* that they may well prove to be of an unusual or abnormal type.

The next egg I show, that of *Propyrrhula subhimalayensis* is also an abnormal egg both in size and coloration.

In the same box are a pair of the beautiful *Propasser*-like eggs of *Pyrrhospiza punicea*, of which only two or three clutches have as yet been taken.

Of Asiatic Bullfinches three forms are shown, *Pyrrhula aurantiaca*, *P. erythrocephalus*, and *P. erythaca*, all of very great raaity and all curiously unlike our European Bullfinches, though the two latter are very like Greenfinches.

After the Bullfinches come the Finches of the genera *Propasser* and *Carpodacus*, now often united under the one name. With a series of *Propasser pulcherrimus pulcherrimus* are shown a fine series of its Tibetan subspecies *waltoni*, a geographical race so close to the typical ferm as to be very

doubtfully distinct. The eggs, like the parent birds, are practically indistinguishable. I have never seen any clutch of these eggs with all of their number unmarked, but pure blue eggs often occur, and in one clutch exhibited there are three such.

The eggs shown of *Propasser rhodochroa* were nearly all taken by Mr. S. L. Whymper in Garhwal at a height of some 12,000 feet. There are not many clutches in collections, with the exception of those taken by that gentleman.

There are two sets of the very rare *P. thura thura* and one of the even rarer *P. ambigua*, only one or two others being known of either species; whilst the next, *P. rhodopeplus*, is one of the only two clutches known, both of which were also taken by Mr. S. L. Whymper.

The eggs of *Propasser rubicilla edwardsi* and *P. r. severtzori* all come from Tibet. The former is a very rare form, apparently breeding more to the north-west, whilst the latter is a very common form on the plateaux south and south-east of the same country. Eggs of the latter were first taken by Major F. M. Baily and Col. Stern, I.M.S., and have since then been taken by several men who have been good enough to collect for me in Tibet. I do not think they breed under about 12,000 feet and are certainly found up to 15,000.

Of the beautiful Rose-Finch, *Carpodacus e. erythrinus*, I show three clutches to compare with the small series exhibited of the eastern form, *C. e. roseatus*. In this latter are some remarkable sets. The pure blue and the well-spotted dark set were both taken by the late Major Whitehead on the same day, and within a few yards of one another, in the Khagan Valley on the extreme N.W. Frontier of India.

The extraordinary C/7 were taken by Col. H. H. Harington in the same valley on the 27th June, 1914, at about 9000 feet. The three spotted eggs were all addled, and the four paler ones quite fresh. Apparently one bird had deserted its nest, which had then been taken over by another of the same species.

The egg shown of *Procarduelis nepalensis* is from a C/3 taken by Mr. Whymper in the Pindan Valley, Kumaon, at about 10,000–12,000 feet elevation. This clutch is still, I

believe, unique. In the same box is a clutch of *Callacanthus burtoni*, of which one or two other clutches have been taken by Col. Ward and, I think, Col. Wilson. In appearance they are typical *Propasser* eggs.

I also show a few eggs of *Chrysomitris* (*Acanthis*) *tibetana* and *C. ambigua*, the latter unique, the former representing more than half the known clutches. As might be expected, these are typical Linnets' eggs in appearance, though rather handsome ones. There is next a fair series of the Indian Goldfinch, *Carduelis c. caniceps*, showing a close resemblance to those of our English bird ; then there are smaller series of the rare Serin, *Serinus pusillus*, and of the better-known Himalayan Greenfinch, *Acanthis spinoides*.

I also show what I believe to be the only clutch extant of the Himalayan Crossbill, *Loxia himalayana*, which differs in no way from those of the European bird, and a few odd eggs—there is no complete clutch—of that curious Scarlet Finch, *Hæmatospiza indica*.

The last of the Finches shown are the aberrant white ones of the Mountain-Finches. Some of them shown are unique, and some comparatively common. They include *Fringillauda nemoricola nemoricola* and its subspecies *sordida* and *Montifringilla brandti hæmatopygia*, *M. ruficollis*, *M. nivalis alpicola*, and *M. n. adamsi*.

Of the Buntings, I show but few. There are series of *Emberiza cia par* and *E. c. stracheyi* and two clutches of the very rare *E. c. godlewskii*, the latter recently taken by Mr. La Touche in China. I also show five clutches of *E. stracheyi* as representing a type contrasting well with those of the Meadow-Buntings.

The last box contains three pairs of the very House-Sparrow egg-like eggs of *Emberiza striolata*, a Bunting of whose breeding we still know but very little.

Mr. Percy F. Bunyard exhibited the following eggs from his collection :—

Greenfinch (*Chloris chloris*). A series of twenty-two clutches. Among those of special interest was a clutch of

five from Gloucestershire with pure white ground, faintly marked pale red; a clutch of four pale greenish eggs without markings with a Cuckoo's (*C. canorus*), Kent; a clutch of five with almost pure white ground, well-marked with pale red (Kent).

Hawfinch (*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*). A very beautiful series, mostly from Kent, including a clutch of five erythristic eggs with cream ground faintly tinged with pink, markings of dark and pale reddish-brown consisting of spots and vein-markings forming a zone ('Eggs of the Birds of Europe,' p. 16, fig. 30); a clutch of five from Northants, heavily vein-marked, mostly longitudinally.

British Goldfinch (*Carduelis c. britannicus*). A series of sixteen clutches; heavily marked and almost unmarked eggs were well represented.

Siskin (*Spinus spinus*). A representative series of types and varieties mostly from Ireland.

House-Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*). A series of twenty-five clutches in which the great variation was well demonstrated. Conspicuous among them was a clutch of five pure white eggs almost unmarked, and a clutch of five heavily capped brownish-black; a clutch of five with greenish ground, faintly marked with various shades of grey.

Tree-Sparrow (*Passer montanus*). A series of twenty-five clutches mostly from Suffolk. The type and varieties were well represented, the latter by very heavily pigmented eggs; also clutches in which the usual so-called odd eggs were quite absent, as also was the case in the preceding species.

Chaffinch (*Fringilla cœlebs*). A very beautiful series of twenty-five clutches. Among those which call for special mention was a clutch of five pale blue eggs without markings from Surrey, a clutch of four heavily banded eggs with suffused and vein markings of rich reddish-brown (Kent), a clutch of five with very large suffused underlying markings of purplish-red (Surrey), a clutch of four pure white eggs from Herefordshire.

Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*). An exceptionally

beautiful series from South Varangar. Among them four clutches of *eight*, five clutches of seven, and seven clutches of six; clutches showing very blue ground and those with suffused reddish-brown markings almost concealing the ground-colour were conspicuous. Compared with the eggs of preceding species, they were easily distinguishable in the series.

Linnet (*Acanthis cannabina*). A series of twenty-five clutches showing great variation for this species, those with large suffused markings being particularly beautiful; eggs without markings were represented.

Holboll's Redpoll (*Acanthis l. holboelli*). A clutch of six well-authenticated eggs from Russian Kola, taken by Helge Lilliestierna. These do not show any characteristics which could separate them from Linarid eggs.

Lesser Redpoll (*Acanthis l. cabaret*). A well-represented series showing the type and varieties. Among the latter were some heavily pigmented clutches with the markings mostly confined to the greater axis, and one clutch of five from Lancashire showing dark bluish-green bands.

Twite (*Acanthis flavirostris*). A series showing the two well-known forms. Those with the vein-like markings are typical *flavirostris* eggs; those with evenly distributed fine markings are almost undistinguishable from those of *cannabina*.

The series of Lesser Redpoll, Twite, Siskin, Linnet, and Goldfinch were shown side by side to demonstrate the difference in the ground-colour of the five species, which is easily distinguishable in a series; the Redpolls' showing the warmest shade come first, and the other species as placed above.

Northern Bullfinch (*P. pyrrhula*). A clutch of six from Dorpat. These do not differ from *pileata* eggs.

British Bullfinch (*P. p. pileata*). A series of twenty-four clutches. Among them a clutch of five pure white eggs, slightly marked pale red (Northants), a similar clutch of four (Surrey), a clutch of six white eggs slightly tinged

with green (Surrey), and a similar clutch of six well-marked from Kent.

Scarlet Grosbeak (*Carpodacus erythrinus*). A typical clutch of six from Altal Gihet, S. Siberia.

Pine-Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*). These very handsome eggs were represented by nine clutches from Lapland.

Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*). An exceptionally fine series mostly Suffolk, a clutch of five erythristic eggs with pure white ground and suffused pale red markings, and a clutch of four with conspicuous vein-markings of brownish-black were particularly beautiful.

Corn-Bunting (*Emberiza calandra*). Twenty-five clutches, Continental and British. Among the latter was a clutch of four pure white eggs without markings (Suffolk) and a clutch of four greyish-white eggs without surface-markings; the underlying markings of ash-grey were conspicuous (Suffolk).

Yellow Hammer (*Emberiza citrinella*). A remarkably beautiful series of twenty-five clutches. Conspicuous among them was a clutch of five from Surrey, in which the typical vein-markings were almost wholly replaced by large suffused blotches of rich reddish-brown almost covering the broader parts—very large underlying markings of lead-grey were conspicuous on some; also a clutch of five from Kent heavily vein-marked with rich purplish-brown, with large underlying markings of pale mauve; also a clutch of four with distinct yellowish ground.

Pine-Bunting (*Emberiza leucocephala*). Two eggs from Amur. These resemble certain forms of *citrinella* eggs, but are distinctly cylindrical in shape, which may not be constant.

Cirl-Bunting (*Emberiza cirlus*). A series of twenty-five clutches, among them two of six each from Austria. Typical *cirlus* eggs are easily distinguishable from those of *citrinella*; the series of both species were placed side by side to demonstrate this fact.

Black-headed Bunting (*Emberiza melanocephala*). Two typical clutches from Austria and two from Sochia, taken by the late Capt. F. C. Selous.

Meadow-Bunting (*Emberiza cia*). Six type-clutches of five, and one of four from Spain.

East Siberian Meadow-Bunting (*Emberiza cioides castaneiceps*). Two clutches of five from Amur. These do not differ from *cia* eggs, though the ground-colour of these two clutches is distinctly lighter, almost white.

Ortolan-Bunting (*Emberiza hortulana*). Three clutches of five and three of four (Sweden and Greece).

Yellow-breasted Bunting (*Emberiza aureola*). A clutch of five from Minsinsk, taken 7th July, 1901 (from Dresser).

Reed-Bunting (*Emberiza schœniclus*). A series of twenty-five clutches, showing extreme and modified forms and varieties. Among the latter were three clutches of the rare cyanic form, also a clutch of four with Cuckoos', showing large blotches instead of the typical vein-markings.

Large-billed Reed-Bunting (*Emberiza palustris*). A clutch of five from Daurien; these do not differ from *schœniclus* eggs, but are a little larger average—measurements, 20·5 × 15·7 mm.

Lapland Bunting (*Calcarius lapponicus*). A series of sixteen clutches from S. Varangar, showing great variation.

Snow-Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*). Seven clutches of five, one of four, and one of three, all from Iceland and Davis Straits.

Mr. Bunyard also exhibited five clutches of five and one of six Rustic Bunting, *Emberiza rustica*, from Finland, and read the following short paper on them :—

Previous to 1866 the eggs of the Rustic Bunting were unknown in this country. In this year Mr. Dresser received three clutches from Mr. J. A. Sandman, who, according to Howard Saunders, discovered their breeding-haunts in N.E. Finland.

In 1897 two eggs were figured by Newton in the Proc. Zool. Soc. only one egg, however, is catalogued in 'Ootheca Wolleyana,' p. 458, which was published in 1902—this came from Archangel through Herr Moschler. In 1896 one typical egg was figured by Henry Seebohm in 'Eggs of British Birds,' pl. 58; five typical eggs are beautifully

figured by Dresser in his 'Eggs of the Birds of Europe,' pl. 20. figs. 6–10 (pub. 1910), these are all from Finland, two of which were taken by Sandman. Dresser was evidently well acquainted with the eggs long before Newton's communication to the Zool. Soc.

The Nat. Hist. Mus. possesses ten eggs, all of which are from Archangel, the year is not given, one egg is described as having a black hair-line ('Catalogue of Birds Eggs,' vol. v. p. 233 1912).

On the Continent the eggs were apparently known as far back as 1855, two of which were figured by Baedeker (Eier Eur. Vög. tab. 12, fig. 13, tab. 76, fig. 10). One egg is badly figured by Rey in Eier Vög. Mitteleurop, p. 297, pl. 38. fig. 7 (1900).

About 1894 I secured through Dresser a well-authenicated clutch of three typical eggs from Finland, which came to him from E. K. Enckell, who took three of those he figured. Since 1894 I have had a fair number of eggs through my hands, all of which came from Nurmes in Finland.

Considering the small amount of material then available, Howard Saunders describes the type accurately; but I have not seen any that show the slightest sign of a reddish ground, and some, as will be seen from those exhibited, have scrawlings (*i.e.*, vein-markings), which were apparently absent on those he described.

Two of the clutches exhibited have the typical greenish-grey ground-colour, with fairly evenly distributed markings of olive-brown which vary considerably in density; conspicuous underlying greyish markings are mostly confined to the greater axis.

Clutch No. 3 has the ground-colour almost pure white, the surface-markings are much darker and almost obscure the ground-colour, the typical *Emberiza* hair-like lines are conspicuous on some ; short very dark black-brown vein-like markings occur, which are scarcely visible to the naked eye.

Clutch No. 4 has very pale greenish-grey ground-colour, the hair-like and short vein-markings are abundant and conspicuous.

Clutch No. 5 is very distinctive ; owing to the markings

being mostly underlying they appear very greyish, the hair-lines and short vein-markings are more conspicuous than on those of clutches 3 and 4.

Clutch 6 is a distinctive one, the surface-markings are mostly in the form of blotches instead of the typical mottlings.

The eggs are very distinctive and there are no British eggs with which they could be confused ; the only egg which shows any affinity to them is the rare greenish-grey ground spotted or blotch form of the Tree-Pipit (*A. trivialis*).

I exhibit two clutches of these by the side of those of the Rustic Bunting for comparison :—

Bunyard's weights : average 39 eggs, 0·127 mg.—maximum 0·150 mg., minimum 0·118 mg.

Rey : 0·117 mg. Measurements (Rey), 20·57 × 15·01 mm. (Sandman's eggs).

The next Meeting of the B. O. C. will be held on Wednesday, the 9th of March, 1921, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, at 7 p.m.

Members are reminded that at this Meeting, which will be held conjointly with the Annual Dinner of the B. O. U., they are allowed to bring Lady Guests.

The evening will be chiefly devoted to an exhibition of Lantern-slides, and the Editor would be greatly obliged if those wishing to show slides would communicate with him at the Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, S.W. 7.

Members intending to dine are requested to inform the Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. L. Bonhote, Park Hill House, Carshalton, Surrey.

(Signed)

ROTHSCHILD,	PERCY R. LOWE,	J. L. BONHOTE,
Chairman.	*Editor.*	*Sec. & Treas.*

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

Smithsonian Institution
APR 19 1921
National Museum.

No. CCLVIII.

The two-hundred-and-fifty-fifth Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48, Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, March 9th, 1921.

Chairman: The Lord Rothschild, Ph.D., F.R.S.

Members present:—E. C. Stuart Baker; E. Bidwell; F. D. Bradford; J. L. Bonhote (*Hon. Sec. and Treas.*); Staines Boorman; P. F. Bunyard; R. W. Chase; C. Chubb; E. V. Earle; H. D. Elwes, F.R.S.; J. H. Gurney; Rev. J. R. Hale; Rear-Admiral E. C. Hardy, R.N.; Dr. E. Hartert; E. G. Herbert; T. Iredale; Fleet-Surg. K. H. Jones, R.N.; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain; N. B. Kinnear; H. Kirke-Swann; G. C. Lambert; Dr. H. Langton; Dr. P. R. Lowe (*Editor*); Lt.-Col. H. A. F. Magrath; Dr. P. H. Manson-Bahr; H. Massey; G. M. Mathews; Lt.-Col. R. Meinertzhagen; H. Munt; C. E. Pearson; E. Lort Phillips; H. Leyborne Popham; C. W. M. Praed; A. E. Price; R. H. Read; W. E. Renaut; C. B. Rickett; D. Seth-Smith; Sir M. C. Seton; F. W. Smalley; E. Fraser Stanford; C. G. Talbot-Ponsonby; Dr. C. B. Ticehurst; A. Trevor Battye; G. de H. Vaizey; K. G. R. Vaizey; S. L. Whymper; H. F. Witherby.

Members of B. O. U., but not of B. O. C.:—Miss D. Bate; Miss Baxter; Miss Best; H. S. Gladstone; Miss M. Harland; A. Hope Walker; Capt. Collingwood Ingram; Brig.-General N. R. Kelham; Mrs. A. C. Meinertzhagen; E. R. Paton; H. Pratt; Miss Rintoul; C. Smeed; Miss Turner; T. Wells; Dr. H. F. R. Wollaston; M. S. Wood.

Guests:—Mrs. Stuart Baker; R. F. Bayford, K.C.; C. L. Beddington; C. H. Bott; G. Evans; F. G. Gunnis; J. P. Musgrave Hanna; Mrs. Hartert; Geo. R. Hodson; K. C. W. Holloway; Bruce S. Ingram; C. R. Gurney; E. W. Kent; Miss Munt; Mrs. Lort Phillips; O. G. Pike; Mrs. Leyborne Popham; Dr. E. G. Reeve; Topham Richardson; Mr. & Mrs. Richardo; Hon. N. Russell; Lady Seton; Miss Enid Turner; Dr. T. L. Wyndham; Harold M. Worsley.

The meeting was devoted to an exhibition of lantern-slides, from photographs taken by Members and others.

Mr. Oliver G. Pike exhibited an interesting series of photographs illustrating the nesting-habits of the Black-necked Grebe, taken from life-scenes on the Tring Museum Reservoir.

Miss G. L. Turner exhibited a series of sixty slides depicting various scenes of Bird-life in Holland, including Black Terns, Ruffs and Reeves, Avocets, Black-tailed Godwits, Curlews, and Spotted Woodpeckers.

Mr. D. Seth-Smith exhibited a number of photographs showing various bird-displays as observed in the Zoological Society's Gardens. Chief among these were displays of the Kagu, Sun-Bittern, the Monál, and the Peacock-Pheasants.

Dr. P. Manson-Bahr showed some photographs of Snipe, and gave an interesting exhibition to illustrate the mechanics of the "drumming" or "bleating" of various species.

Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker sent the following new description :—

Arboricola torqueola millardi, subsp. nov.

Differs from *A. t. torqueola* in having the chestnut of the head darker and not so bright ; the breast is neither so dark nor so pure a grey, but is more tinged with ashy ; the abdomen is not so pure a white, being nearly always strongly suffused with rufescent.

The colours of the soft parts and the measurements seem to be same as in *A. t. torqueola*.

The adult female of this form differs from the adult female of *torqueola* in much the same respects as does the male. The chestnut of the throat is conspicuously paler, the breast is a paler grey, and the abdomen is more suffused with chestnut.

Type. No. 89.5.10.848, British Mus. Coll. Hume Coll. ♂.

Type-locality. Koteghur.

Distribution. Himalayas, north-west of Nepal and Garhwal.

Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker also made the following diagnosis of his new genus *Nigravis*, described in the 'Bulletin' of Oct. 13th, 1920 :—

"This bird was fully described by me in the 'Bulletin' for last October, and I there gave the generic characters, which are also to some extent in this case the specific ; but, as some readers appear to think this insufficient to satisfy technical scientific diagnosis, I repeat them here :

"*Nigravis*, gen. nov. General characters : short wing ; rather long, stout tarsi, typical of the *Turdoidæ*. Primaries 5th to 9th or 6th to 10th subequal ; first primary about half length of longest ; tail-feathers very broad and much graduated ; *nostril completely covered by an operculum* ; and feathers on either side of the base of the bill grow right up to the posterior edge of the nostril. Rictal bristles very short and three in number, feathers of chin with fine hair-like tips."

The type-locality as given in the 'Bulletin' above referred to must be corrected from "Ban Sao, Siam" to "Ban Sao, French Laos" (*vide* Kloss, Bull. B. O. C. xli. p. 75).

Dr. V. J. L. van Someren sent descriptions of the following African Birds, the types of which are in the Tring Museum :—

Bias musicus pallidiventris, subsp. nov.

Much like *B. m. musicus* (not with upperside paler, like *B. m. femininus*), but underside more white, practically without rufous tinge, except on sides of chest.

Hab. Angola to Tanganyika.

Type. ♀, Canhoca, Angola, 23. xi. 1903. W. J. Ansorge leg. No. 1331. Six females compared.

554. ***Alseonax cœrulescens kikuyuensis**, subsp. nov.

These birds are very much like *A. c. cœrulescens* from Natal and Angola, but distinctly greyer below, the white throat is more restricted, with a wide grey chest-band, the abdomen more or less flecked with greyish.

Wings 74–80 mm.

Hab. Nairobi, Kyambu, in the Kikuyu Mts., 5–6000 feet.

Type. ♀ ad., Kyambu Forest, 19. iii. 1916. Eight specimens.

496. ***Dicrurus modestus ugandensis**, subsp. nov.

The birds which inhabit Uganda from Toro to Elgon are more blue-black, less purplish black, than typical "*coracina*" from Gaboon and Nigeria, of which there is a series at Tring. In size, the races are practically alike, though on an average the Gaboon birds are larger. The largest Uganda bird has wings of 135 mm.

Hab. Bugoma, Budongo, Lugalambo, Mabira, Elgon in Uganda; and Kavirondo in East Africa.

Type. ♂, Budongo, 10. xii. 1918. Nineteen examined.

Harpolestes australis littoralis, subsp. nov.

Slightly smaller than *H. a. australis*, *emini*, and *minor*—wings 63–73, as against 75–85 mm. in the latter forms. Underside more whitish. Bill smaller than in *H. a. australis* and *emini*.

Hab. Coastal scrub-region of British and German East Africa: Changamwe, Mombasa.

Type. ♀, Changamwe, 18. vii. 1912. Seven skins examined.

Harpolestes senegalus mozambicus, subsp. nov.

Nearest to *H. s. orientalis* from Mombasa, but paler above and below, also the superciliary stripe lighter, rump greyish. Size as in *H. s. orientalis*.

Hab. Lumbo, Northern Mozambique.

Type. ♂ ad., Lumbo, 10. vii. 1918. Six compared, all very constant in colour and size.

Batis molitor taruensis, subsp. nov.

A smaller form than *B. m. molitor*, male with rather large preorbital white spot, which is extended over the eye as a broad superciliary stripe; thus resembling somewhat the male of *B. minor suahelica*, but larger. Head and mantle dark slaty-grey. Female with the same head-markings, and with chestnut throat-patch.

Hab. Taru Desert, Samburu, Maungu, and Changamwe.

Type. ♂ ad., Maungu, 4. viii. 1918. Seven specimens examined.

Batis soror pallidigula, subsp. nov.

Smaller than *B. soror soror*, female with chest-band and throat-patch much paler, not darker as in *B. s. littoralis* Neum. from Zanzibar. Wing, ♂ 51, ♀ 52 mm.

Hab. Lumbo in North Mozambique (also coastal districts of German and Vanga in British East Africa).

Type. ♀, Lumbo, 17. vii. 1918.

Smithornis rufolateralis budongoensis, subsp. nov.

♀ differs from *S. ruf. rufolateralis* from Kamerun in having a smaller bill and the top of the head dark ashy (with blackish centres to the feathers), and not brown.

Hab. Budongo Forest and Bugoma. Only three females examined.

Type. ♀, Budongo Forest, 17. ii. 1907. L. M. Seth-Smith leg.

Bradornis taruensis, sp. nov. (or probably subsp. of *griseus*).

Smaller than *B. g. griseus* and *pumilus*, and darker on upperside, having a brownish tinge to the grey back.

Differs from *B. g. pumilus* in having the well-circumscribed throat more extensive, and the abdomen whiter, only the sides tinged with grey. Wings 70–80 mm.

Hab. The thorn-bush country of the Taru: Maungu, Samburu, Sagala, Taveta, M'buyuni, Campi-ya-bibi.

Type. ♂, Campi-ya-bibi, 3. vii. 1918.

Bradornis murinus suahelicus, subsp. nov.

Differs from a large series of typical *murinus* in having the upperside much browner, less greyish brown, which is evident both in fresh-plumaged and worn birds. Also slightly larger.

Hab. Masindi, Entebbe, Kyetume, Elgon, and also Londiani, Kakamegoes, Nairobi, Kitai, and Sagala.

Type. ♀, Londiani, 12. xii. 1912.

Melænornis lugubris ugandæ, subsp. nov.

Differs from the Abyssinian form (*M. lugubris lugubris*, erroneously called *pammelaina*, the type of the latter name being a blue-black bird of the *ater* group!) in being darker, more glossy blackish, especially males, and in having the inner webs of the quills greyish-ashy instead of whitish, and from the Senegal form (*M. l. edoloides*) in being less blue-black and smaller, the inner webs of quills less dark.

Hab. Uganda and Kavirondo (Masindi, Budongo, Entebbe, Sezibwa in Uganda, also Kisumu and Kavirondo in East Africa).

Type. ♂, Sezibwa, 16. x. 1915.

Hirundo senegalensis hybrida, subsp. nov.

Underside much paler in *H. s. monteiri*, but tail with white or whitish spots in varying degree, sometimes obsolete or indicated only; while in *H. s. monteiri* they are always distinct, in *H. senegalensis senegalensis* there are none, though the abdomen is paler, as in *hybrida*.

Hab. East Africa: Mombasa, Changamwe, Tsavo, M'buyuni, Samburu, Nairobi.

Type. ♂, Tsavo, 29. iii. 1918.

***Myioceyx ruficeps ugandæ**, subsp. nov.

These birds have more decided blue spots on the head than Gaboon and Fantee specimens.

Hab. Lugalambo, Mabira, and Budongo in Uganda.

Type. ♂, Budongo, 1. vi. 1919.

394. ***Mesopicos xantholophus chloroticus**, subsp. nov.

Greener above and below than *M. x. xantholophus*, generally with brighter golden tinge to the rump and less spotted below on the centre of the underside. Wings 110–122 as against 100–120 mm. of Gaboon and N. Angola birds.

Hab. Uganda from Elgon and Nandi west of N. Tanganyika (Bugoma, Lugalambo, Kasala, Mubango, Elgon, Kakamega).

Type. ♂, Lugalambo, 5. xi. 1915.

***Campothera caroli budongoensis**, subsp. nov.

Uganda birds are greener on the upper surface than *C. caroli caroli*, less golden, and have the spotting on the underside pale yellowish, except on the throat and fore-neck where it is whitish. Eighteen skins from Uganda show these characters to be constant. The young are altogether darker than adults, and are very like Gaboon birds.

Hab. Belgian Congo, east to Uganda as far east as the Mabira Forest and Elgon (Budongo, Bugoma, Mawakota, Lugalambo, Mubango in Uganda).

Type. ♀ ad., Bugoma Forest, 20. x. 1913.

351. ***Gymnobucco bonapartei intermedius**, subsp. nov.

The Tufted Barbet, which occurs in Uganda, is separable from the bird of Elgon and North Kavirondo in being smaller and in having the nasal tufts shorter, and chestnut

or brownish in colour, and in having the ear-coverts brown. Bill smaller. Tail more washed with green, and mantle and wings more striped. It is thus the connecting-link between *G. bonapartei* and *G. bonapartei cinereiceps*. Young birds have short, soft pale straw-coloured tufts, not like Elgon birds. Wings 87–89 mm.

Hab. Mabira Forest, west to the Mpanga and Ruwenzori, and S. Ankole.

Type. ♂, Mpanga Forest, 20. ix. 1916.

GENERAL INDEX.

A General Index to the 'Bulletin' covering volumes 16 to 39 is now ready and can be obtained, price £1, from the publishers, Messrs. H. F. & G. Witherby, 326 High Holborn, W.C.

The cost of production of this important volume has been very considerable and a serious tax upon the funds of the Club; it is hoped therefore that all members will subscribe for a copy, without which their series of the 'Bulletin' will be incomplete.

The next Meeting of the B. O. C. will be held on Wednesday, the 13th of April, 1921, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, the Dinner at 7 p.m. Members intending to dine are requested to inform the Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. L. Bonhote, Park Hill House, Carshalton, Surrey.

[N.B.—Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice *beforehand* to the Editor at Nat. Hist. Museum, South Kensington, and to place in his hands *not later than at the meeting* MSS. for publication in the Bulletin.]

(Signed)

ROTHSCHILD,	PERCY R. LOWE,	J. L. BONHOTE,
Chairman.	*Editor.*	*Sec. & Treas.*

Smithsonian Institution
MAY 17 1921
National Museum.

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCLIX.

The two-hundred-and-fifty-sixth Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48, Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, April 13th, 1921.

Chairman: W. L. Sclater.

Members present:—E. C. Stuart Baker; D. A. Bannerman; Dr. J. O. Beven; E. Bidwell; J. L. Bonhote (*Hon. Sec. and Treas.*); C. D. Borrer; P. F. Bunyard; Col. Stephenson R. Clarke; D. E. W. Gibb; Dr. E. Hartert; T. Iredale; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain; N. B. Kinnear; Dr. G. C. Low; Dr. P. R. Lowe (*Editor*); C. W. Mackworth-Praed; Dr. P. H. Manson-Bahr; G. M. Mathews; Lt.-Col. R. Meinertzhagen; H. Munt; C. Oldham; C. B. Rickett; The Lord Rothschild; Sir Malcolm C. C. Seton; J. Stewart; H. F. Witherby; R. O. Wynne.

Visitor:—A. Blackwood.

Guest of the Club:—C. B. Williams.

Mr. C. B. Williams, who had spent the last four or five years in Trinidad, exhibited an interesting series of the nests of Humming Birds, to which family he had paid a good deal of attention. Among other interesting points he dwelt on the habits of *Phæthornis longuemarius* Less., which adjusts

the height of its nest above the water to the seasonal flood-level of the streams over which the nest is suspended.

Seventeen species of Humming Bird are found in Trinidad, of which Mr. Williams had discovered and studied ten to a dozen, including *Phæthornis guyi* Less. and *Glaucis hirsutus* (Gm.).

Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker described the following new subspecies of Flower-peckers :—

(1) **Dicæum chrysorrhœum intensum**, subsp. nov.

Differs from *D. c. chrysorrhœum*, type-locality Java, in having the upper parts an intense golden-green, much brighter and more yellow than in the typical bird. Below, the white is suffused with yellow or buff-yellow, except on chin and throat, and the streaks are not so heavy or black. Size as in *D. c. chrysorrhœum*.

Type unsexed (♂), No. 97.12.10.942 in British Museum. Collected by Biddulph, Nov. 1873.

Type-locality. Sikkim.

Distribution. Sikkim to Assam, North and East of Brahmapootra.

There appear to be three well-marked races of this Flower-pecker :

(i.) *D. c. chrysorrhœum*. Malay Pen., south of 10° lat., Sumatra, Borneo, and Java.

(ii.) *D. c. chrysochlore*. Malay Pen., north of 10°, and the whole of Burma and Siam.

This race is intermediate between *chrysorrhœum* and *intensum*, but nearer the former.

(iii.) *D. c. intensum*. As described.

(2) **Dicæum trigonostigma rubropygium**, subsp. nov.

Differs from *D. t. trigonostigma* in having the rump orange-flame colour, almost concolorous with the back, instead of orange-yellow contrasting with the back. The throat is distinctly paler and the underparts are generally more richly coloured. Typical *trigonostigma* is exactly halfway in colour between *rubropygium* and Hartert's *flaviclunis*.

Size as in *D. t. trigonostigma*.

Type. ♂, No. 87.2.1.122 in British Museum. Collected by Davison for Hume.

Type-locality. Mergui.

Distribution. South Burma, South-West Siam, Malay Pen., north of 10° lat., Lakkimpur, Assam.

Dr. Percy R. Lowe exhibited three species of Seed-Snipe (Thinocorythidæ), which he described as follows:—

(1) **Thinocorus rumicivorus bolivianus**, subsp. nov.

Adult male. Differs from *Th. r. rumicivorus* in being reddish-buff (almost isabelline) above, instead of hair-brown; in having the black throat and breast stripes wider and more conspicuous; and in its larger measurements: wing 126 mm., tarsus 17 mm.

Hab. Bolivia.

Type in Brit. Mus. ♂, Uyuni (3660 metres), Bolivia, 2. xi. 1901. No. 1902.3.13.1739.

The wing of another male measured 127 mm. and of a female 129 mm. These are the only examples from Bolivia in the Collection.

(2) **Thinocorus peruvianus**, sp. nov.

Adult male. Differs from *Th. rumicivorus* in having the pale borders of the feathers of the head, mantle, wing-coverts, secondaries, and tertials very light buff as opposed to dusky or dusky-buff, and in its much smaller measurements. Eight males averaged 99 mm. in the wing; seven males from Chile (*Th. r. rumicivorus*) averaged 116 mm.

Hab. Peru.

Type in Brit. Mus. ♂, Islay, South-West Peru, 2.ix.1867 (*Whitely*). No. 91.10.21.336.

Measurements. Wing 99 mm.; tarsus 15 mm.

(3) **Attagis cheeputi**, sp. nov.

Male. Differs from *Att. malouinus* in having the feathers of the back, rump, and upper tail-coverts dark brown, finely and closely vermiculated with narrow bands of grey or buffish-grey.

The tail-feathers are brown, narrowly banded with buffish. In other respects similar to *A. malouinus*.

Hab. Patagonia.

Type in Brit. Mus. ♂, Valle del Lago Blanco, Cheeput, Patagonia, 29. vi. 1900. Coll. by J. Koslowsky.

Measurements. Wing 175 mm. ; tarsus 22 mm.

I at first thought that the very striking difference between this bird and specimens of *A. malouinus* in the B.M. Coll. might be due to sex or season, but there are male examples in the National Collection, taken on the same date and in the same locality, which are in all respects similar to specimens of *A. malouinus* from the Falklands. Nor can the difference be ascribed to age, unless *all* the specimens of *Att. malouinus* in the B.M. Coll. are young birds.

Dr. Lowe also exhibited four examples of the Whimbrel from the East Coast of Africa (Zanzibar, Mombasa, Portuguese East Africa) in which the axillaries, under wing-coverts, and under tail-coverts were pure white. The back and rump were also pure white, with no hidden dark spots as in *Numenius phæopus phæopus*, while the fore neck and upper pectoral region were marked with thin streaks of brown, not so numerous nor extending so far down on the breast and flanks as in typical *N. phæopus*. Taken in conjunction with the fact that the Whimbrel has been recorded by Col. R. Meinertzhagen as breeding on Mauritius (*cf.* 'Ibis,' 1912, p. 102), the restricted distribution of these four peculiar examples struck Dr. Lowe as being more than a mere coincidence, and he proposed to call attention to the variation by assigning to them the name of

Numenius phæopus alboaxillaris, subsp. nov.

Hab. East Coast of Africa.

Type in Brit. Mus. ♀, Inhambane, Portuguese East Africa, 25. ix. 06. No. 1903.10.14.292.

Dr. Lowe also called attention to the fact that the name *Belonopterus cayennensis chilensis*, given by Molina to the Chilean Lapwing, cannot stand, as in the original description

in the first edition of his 'Saggio sulla storia Naturale del Chili,' 1782, p. 258, Molina distinctly describes a Jacana (*Parra chilensis*) and says "la sua fronte è guernita di una carnosita rossa, divisa in due lobi." In the 2nd ed. 1810, p. 206, he makes this still more certain.

Dr. Lowe therefore proposed the name

Belonopterus cayennensis molina, subsp. nov.,

and designated as the type an adult male which is in the British Museum, collected during the voyage of the 'Alert' by Dr. Coppinger at Taleakuano, South Chile, on Sept. 22nd, 1879. No. 80.8.3.27.

Lord Rothschild described the following new subspecies :—

Thinocorus rumicivorus venturii, subsp. nov.

♂ *ad.* Differs from *Th. r. rumicivorus* in its smaller size and lighter back, the feathers of the back, secondaries, wing-coverts, and tertials being paler brown, with wider pale edges and bands ; rump much paler, more blue-grey.

Wing 109–112 mm. (*Th. r. rumicivorus* 115–118 mm.).

3 ♂ ♂, Barracas al Sud, Buenos Aires. S. Venturi Coll. (Type in Tring Mus., No. 603. 4. vi. 1901, ♂).

Lord Rothschild also exhibited a specimen of the "Mt. Kenia Ibis," *Oreoibis akleyorum* Chapm., and remarked that it was the first specimen recorded to have come to Europe, the type-pair and chick having been taken to America by its discoverers, Mr. and Mrs. Akeley. The present specimen was obtained on the lower slopes of Mt. Kenia by Mr. Noel van Someren at about 6000 feet elevation.

Mr. C. W. Mackworth-Praed exhibited a new subspecies of Francolin, which he proposed to name

Francolinus hildebrandti lindi, subsp. nov.

He said this is a well-defined race of *F. hildebrandti*, and differs from all the others in the great reduction of the black

stripes on the feathers of the underside, which in consequence presents a very white appearance. Throat white with no shaft-streaks to the feathers; upperside noticeably paler; size somewhat smaller (wing, ♂, 174 mm.). Female unknown.

This race is nearest to *F. h. johnstoni* of Southern Nyassaland and the southern inland half of Tanganyika Territory.

Type. ♂, Lindi, on the coast of Southern Tanganyika Territory, 1. iii. 1920. Collected and presented by C. H. B. Grant. Brit. Mus. Reg. No. 1921. 3. 22. 9.

Dr. VAN SOMEREN sent the following descriptions of new African birds, the types of which are in the Tring Museum :—

Anthoscopus rocatti taruensis, subsp. nov.

Smaller than *A. r. rocatti* and paler below, greyer above. Belly brownish buff. Forehead whitish buff, with a few dusky tips to the feathers. Wings 45–48 mm.

Hab. Coast of British East Africa to Taru Desert.

Type. ♀, Samburu, 25. vii. 1918.

Parus niger purpurascens, subsp. nov.

Agrees with *P. n. leucomelas* and *lacuum* in having no white fringes to the outer rectrices, but has the under wing-coverts all white. The body-feathers are deeper and more purplish black than in *P. insignis*. Wings: ♂ 83–85, ♀ 78–82 mm.

Hab. Entebbe, Bukedi, Mubendi, Soronko, Elgon.

Type. ♂, Entebbe, ii. 1919.

Anthreptes tephrolæma elgonensis, subsp. nov.

Similar to *A. t. tephrolæma* but larger, chin-patch of ♂ darker grey, underside of ♀ duller and more greenish. Wings: ♂ 59–64, ♀ 57–62 mm.

Hab. Nandi Escarpment to Mt. Elgon and Mabira in Uganda.

Type. ♂, Kaimosi, 22. i. 1917. J. Allen Turner leg., in Meinertzhagen Collection.

Anthreptes collaris ugandæ, subsp. nov.

♂. Underside deep yellow, sides olivaceous but pectoral tufts rich yellow, lighter and brighter than breast; ♀ with olive tinge on throat and flanks. Wings: ♂ 54–58, ♀ 50–54 mm.

Hab. Uganda to Kivu and east to Mt. Elgon, south to Highlands of British East Africa.

Type. ♂, Maraquet, 10. x. 1918.

Anthreptes collaris teitensis, subsp. nov.

♂. Underside much lighter than in *ugandæ*, slightly richer than in *elachior*, clear yellow, flanks but slightly duller, pectoral tufts very bright lemon-yellow. Clearer yellow than *zambesiana*. Wings: ♂, 52–57 mm.

Hab. South Ukambani to Teita and East Kilimanjaro.

Type. ♂, Teita, 15. viii. 1918.

Cinnyris angolensis kakamegæ, subsp. nov.

Differs from *C. a. angolensis* in being darker brown above and below, the underside almost pure black. Wings 70–72 mm., bills as a rule slightly longer, 21–22 mm. ♀ also darker and somewhat more heavily striped on the underside.

Hab. North Kavirondo and Nandi, Yala River, Kaimosi, and Nandi Escarpment.

Type. ♂, Kakamegoes, 15. ii. 1917. J. J. Allen Turner leg., Meinertzhagen Collection.

Cinnyris leucogaster lumbo, subsp. nov.

Differs from *C. l. leucogaster* in being smaller, and the throat and upper tail-coverts less purplish blue. Wings: ♂ 53–55, ♀ 51 mm., bill shorter.

Hab. Lumbo, in North Mozambique.

Type. ♂, Lumbo, 12. vii. 1918. 3 ♂, 1 ♀ examined.

Serinus maculicollis taruensis, subsp. nov.

Differs from the Somaliland races by its darker back, with larger blackish-brown spots, and apparently brighter yellow underside. Wings: ♂ 69–73, ♀ 69–70 mm.

Hab. M'buyuni, Maungu, Maktau, Tsavo.

Type. ♂, M'buyuni, 27. vi. 1918. 5 ♂, 3 ♀.

Serinus (?*flaviventris*) loveridgei, subsp. nov.

Differs from *S. f. flaviventris* in being much smaller and lighter yellowish green on the upperside, and the ear-coverts paler; from *S. marshalli* in being smaller, having the upper tail-coverts greenish and not bright yellow and the breast tinged with green, while the ear-coverts are darker. Wings 70–72 mm. As the ♀ is not known, it is impossible to say whether *loveridgei* is a subspecies of *sulphuratus* or *flaviventris*.

Hab. Lumbo, North Mozambique. Two males compared.

Type. ♂, Lumbo, 10. vii. 1918, Loveridge leg.

Passer griseus mosambicus, subsp. nov.

Darker than *P. g. griseus*, *suahelicus*, and *ugandæ*; crown, mantle, shoulder-patch, and rump darker; throat-patch greyer, less white. Wings 75–83 mm.

Hab. North Mozambique and East Nyassaland.

Type. ♀ ad., Lumbo, Portuguese E. Africa, 13. vii. 1918. Six specimens compared.

Poliospiza striolata ugandæ, subsp. nov.

Very near to *P. s. graueri* from Ruwenzori, but slightly paler on the breast, and the black streaks on the chest narrower. 7 ♂, 3 ♀.

Hab. Mt. Elgon up to the heath zone, and South Ankole.

Type. ♀ ad., Mt. Elgon, 18. vii. 1916.

Specimens from the Kivu districts appear to be indistinguishable from *ugandæ*; they are certainly not *graueri*.

Ortygospiza atricollis dorsostriata, subsp. nov.

Differs widely from other forms except *gabonensis* Lynes, to which it is very closely allied, but richer rufous on the breast; moreover, the male has a small white chin-spot, the female not. There is no white ring round the eye.

Hab. Butiti, Toro, and South Ankole, Western Uganda.

Type. ♂ ad., South Ankole, 8. x. 1919.

Hypargus monteiri ugandensis, subsp. nov.

Very close to *H. m. monteiri* from Angola, but bill slightly larger, back darker, so that the slaty head is not so sharply divided from the mantle.

Hab. Masindi, Mubango, Kyetume, Entebbe, Buzileranjovu in Uganda, north to Lado, Langomeri (*Emin*).

Type. ♂, Masindi, 15. xii. 1918.

Mr. I. Delacour sent the following description of a new species, for which he proposed the name

Liothrix astleyi, sp. nov.

Male. Similar to *Liothrix lutea*, but having the forehead, vertex, and eyebrows strongly tinged with orange-scarlet; ear-coverts bright orange-scarlet; breast scarlet.

Female. Similar to the male, but paler, especially on the ear-coverts, which are yellowish orange.

Type. Male alive in my collection at Clères.

Hab. China (locality unknown).

The difference between this new species and *L. lutea* is very much the same as between *Mesia argentauris* and *M. laurina*. These birds were found in two different consignments of *Liothrix lutea*, imported into Marseilles from Southern China. It was impossible to get any information as regards their habitat, all the *Liothrix* being brought to the port by Chinese from inland.

The male arrived in February and was sent to me. I first

thought it was only an accidental variety, but a closer examination, and the importation of a female two months later, induced me to believe that it was a true new species. The different coloration of the head and breast, and especially that of the ear-coverts, which is plain grey in *L. lutea*, obliged me to consider these birds as forming a species, not a subspecies.

Mr. P. F. Bunyard exhibited mounted specimens of nest-feathers and down of the Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) from N.W. Washington, which he described as follows :—

Feathers.—Type : terminal portion pure white ; basal or downy portion very pale greyish white, slightly tinged with brown. Length 31 mm. (average ten feathers). These are not unlike those of the Red-breasted Merganser (*M. serrator*), but are paler and more downy at the base and purer white.

Down.—Same colour, but slightly darker than the downy portion of the feathers, as is nearly always the case. Similar to that of the Smew (*M. albellus*) and Golden-eye (*C. glaucion*).

GENERAL INDEX.

A General Index to the 'Bulletin' covering volumes 16 to 39 is now ready and can be obtained, price £1, from the publishers, Messrs. H. F. & G. Witherby, 326 High Holborn, W.C.

The cost of production of this important volume has been very considerable and a serious tax upon the funds of the Club; it is hoped therefore that all members will subscribe for a copy, without which their series of the 'Bulletin' will be incomplete.

The next Meeting of the B. O. C. will be held on Wednesday, the 11th of May, 1921, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, the Dinner at 7 p.m. Members intending to dine are requested to inform the Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. L. Bonhote, Park Hill House, Carshalton, Surrey.

[N.B.—Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice *beforehand* to the Editor at Nat. Hist. Museum, South Kensington, and to place in his hands *not later than at the meeting* MSS. for publication in the Bulletin.]

(Signed)

W. L. Sclater,	Percy R. Lowe,	J. L. Bonhote,
Chairman.	*Editor.*	*Sec. & Treas.*

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

Smithsonian Institution
JUN 14 1921
National Museum.

No. CCLX.

THE two-hundred-and-fifty-seventh Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48, Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, May 11th, 1921.

Chairman: W. L. SCLATER.

Members present:—E. C. STUART BAKER; D. A. BANNERMAN; Dr. J. O. BEVEN; E. BIDWELL; J. L. BONHOTE (*Hon. Sec. and Treas.*); P. F. BUNYARD; C. CHUBB; R. H. DEANE; C. H. B. GRANT; Rev. J. R. HALE; Dr. E. HARTERT; E. G. HERBERT; T. IREDALE; Rev. F. C. R. JOURDAIN; N. B. KINNEAR; G. C. LAMBERT; H. LANGTON; Dr. G. C. LOW; Dr. P. R. LOWE (*Editor*); N. S. LUCAS; C. W. MACKWORTH-PRAED; H. A. F. MAGRATH; Dr. P. H. MANSON-BAHR; G. M. MATHEWS; E. C. B. MEADE-WALDO; Lt.-Col. R. MEINERTZHAGEN; H. MUNT; D. W. MUSSELWHITE; T. H. NEWMAN; C. OLDHAM; A. E. PRICE; F. R. RATCLIFFE; R. H. READ; C. B. RICKETT; Lord ROTHSCHILD; D. SETH-SMITH; H. KIRKE-SWANN.

Guests:—G. F. HAMILTON; A. DE C. SOWERBY; G. M. VEVERS.

Before proceeding to the usual business of the evening, the CHAIRMAN referred to the great loss which the Club had

sustained in the death of two prominent members of long-standing:—

Colonel R. G. Wardlaw Ramsay, of Whitehill, Midlothian, who died on the 22nd of April, was in his 70th year, and became a member of the B.O.U. in 1872. He was President of the Union from 1913 to 1918, and presented the Tweeddale collection of bird-skins and the Tweeddale ornithological library, which he had inherited from his uncle, the Marquis of Tweeddale, to the Natural History Museum.

Mr. H. M. Upcher, of Sherringham Hall, who died on the 6th of April last in his 82nd year, was the oldest member of the Union, to which he was elected in 1864, with the exception of Mr. Percy Godman, now the only surviving original member. Mr. Upcher was also an original member of the Club from its foundation in 1882. In his young days he travelled in Iceland, and accompanied the late Canon Tristram in one of his excursions to Palestine.

The Chairman announced that at the June meeting Mr. Frank Chapman, the Curator of Birds in the American Museum of Natural History, would address the Club on the subject of "The Origin of Andean Bird-life, with special reference to Altitudinal Life-zones"; and he proposed that, if the Club expressed their willingness to do so, lady members of the B.O.U. might be invited to the dinner as guests. On a show of hands, this proposal was carried by a considerable majority, and members of the Club may therefore bring as guests any lady member of the Union to the next meeting on June 8th.

Dr. Ernst Hartert exhibited a new *Euprinodes,* and communicated the following descriptions of new East-African forms by Dr. V. G. L. van Someren:—

Euprinodes karamojæ, sp. nov.

Differs from all known forest Warblers of genus *Euprinodes,* and coloured as follows:—Head, rump, mantle, and upper tail-coverts ashy-grey; ear-coverts darker grey; preorbital spot blackish; a white streak from the nostrils to

the anterior angle of the eye. Under surface entirely buffy-white; thighs mottled blackish. Wings dark brown, with the four inner secondaries widely edged with pure white on the outer web; inner secondary-coverts also with narrow white edges to outer web. Central pair of tail-feathers black; next pair tipped with white; third pair white for terminal half, except along the inner web and along the shaft; fourth pair with the terminal half white; outer pair entirely white except at the base. Wings 50, culmen 11, tarsus 17 mm.

Mt. Kamalinga, Karamoja, Uganda. In Nairobi Museum.

Type. Male adult, 12.11.19. Three specimens examined.

Ortygospiza atricollis ugandæ, subsp. nov.

Nearest to *O. a. ansorgei*, but differs in having the mantle uniform grey-brown, a black forehead and extensive black throat, small white chin-spot, and a white ring round the eye. Breast pale brownish.

Female with a white chin-spot.

Type. Male adult, Mumias, N. Kavirondo, 22.6.17. 6 ♂, 3 ♀ in my own collection.

Penthetria laticauda suahelica, subsp. nov.

Similar to *P. l. laticauda*, but tails of ♂ longer, wings shorter! Wings 70–81; in *P. l. laticauda* 81–87, seldom under 84 mm. Tails very variable, but always longer—maximum about 185 mm.

Hab. East Africa.

Type. Nairobi River, 4. iv. 1917. Tring Museum.

Aidemosyne cantans tavetensis, subsp. nov.

Much darker and less uniform on the upperside than *A. a. cantans*, and nearest to *A. a. orientalis* from S. Arabia, but upperside still darker; barring of upperside and spotting of crown and throat equally distinct. 9 ♂, 5 ♀ examined; shot January, October, December.

Hab. South Ukambani to Kilimanjaro (Simba, Tsavo, N'buyumi, Taveta).

Type. ♀, Simba, 17. x. 1917. Tring Museum.

Pyromelana nigroventris rufigula, subsp. nov.

♂ differs from that of *P. n. nigroventris* in having the whole throat or part of it red, instead of black, though two specimens are like *nigroventris*.

Hab. Bura, Teita, Voi, and Kitui in Ukamba. 10 ♂, 3 ♀ examined.

Type. ♂ ad., N'zin River, 14. xii. 1918. Tring Museum.

P. n. nigroventris inhabits the coast-region from Lamu to Mombasa.

Penthetria ardens teitensis, subsp. nov.

Smaller than *P. a. ardens* and *P. a. tropicus*; tail-feathers narrower; red throat-band apparently narrower.

Hab. East of Kilimanjaro and Teita, Bura Hills.

Type. ♂, Bura Hills, 21. iii. 1919. Tring Museum.

Amblyospiza albifrons montana, subsp. nov.

Differs from *A. albifrons unicolor*, which inhabits the coast-regions (Mombasa, Changamve, Tsavo, etc.), in being larger (wings 93–98 mm., beaks heavier), and having a tendency to become almost uniform black.

Hab. Kenia, Kikuyu, Nairobi, Kisumu, etc.

Type. ♂ ad., Fort Hall, Kikuyu Mts., 25. iv. 1918. Tring Museum.

Quelea sanguineirostris centralis, subsp. nov.

♀ darker than the female of *Q. s. sanguineirostris* and *Q. s. æthiopica*, more brownish on head and mantle, browner on underside.

♂ mostly as those of the Angolan form.

Hab. Lake districts of Central Africa, Uganda, Kivu, N. Tanganyika, Toro, Lake Albert Edward, Bukoba.

Type. ♀, Lake Albert Edward, 28. xi. 1910. Tring Museum.

Hyphantornis intermedius kisumui, subsp. nov.

Differs from *H. i. intermedius* in the males having the underside darker, more uniformly tinged with orange, and especially the under tail-coverts more golden, not so lemon-

yellow. Wings ranging up to 70–77 mm. Upperside slightly darker.

Hab. Kisumu, Kano district, Kendu Bay, Simba, Kitui.

Type. ♂ ad., Kisumu, 10. v. 1918. Tring Museum.

Hyphantornis intermedius littoralis, subsp. nov.

Smaller than *H. i. kisumui*; underside lighter, bright yellow, even brighter than in *H. i. intermedius*, from which the males differ chiefly in the lighter, more yellow nape. Wings 63–70 mm.

Hab. Limited to the coast-belt and Taru district, Changamwe and Malindi.

Type. Changamwe, 14. iv. 1919. Tring Museum.

Heteryphantes nigricollis vacillans, subsp. nov.

Differs from *H. n. nigricollis* of W. Africa in having the mantle darker, olive-black to black, though not jet-black as in *H. n. melanoxanthus*. This new form is thus somewhat intermediate between *H. n. nigricollis* and *H. n. melanoxanthus*.

Hab. S. Ankole, Bugoma, Budongo, Mubendi, Mabira, Elgon, Entebbe, N. Kavirondo, Taveta, Bukoba.

Type. ♂ ad., Budongo, 17. xii. 1918, in Tring Museum.

Sitagra luteola kavirondensis, subsp. nov.

The birds of this species from south of Elgon along the Nandi Escarpment to the south of Lake Victoria are slightly larger (longer wings) than *S. l. luteola*; the nape is usually less bright yellow, and shows indications of striation; the stripes on the slightly more greenish back are very distinct.

Hab. Soronko River, S. Kerio, Kacheliba, Kisumu, Kibigori, also Entebbe.

Type. ♂ ad., Soronko River, 28. iv. 1916. Tring Museum, 8 ♂, 4 ♀.

Otyphantes emini budongoensis, subsp. nov.

Differs from *O. emini emini*, of which *O. e. zaphiroi* is a synonym, in having the back green with black shaft-stripes,

instead of black. Thus on the upperside it resembles *O. stuhlmanni*, while underneath it is like *O. e. emini*.

Hab. Budongo (type), Masindi, Bugoma.

Type. ♂, Busindi near Budongo, 7. vi. 1919. Tring Museum.

Lamprocolius sycobius pestis, subsp. nov.

Larger than *L. s. sycobius* : wing, ♂ 130–135, ♀ 120–125 mm. Abdomen purplish ; well-developed bright purplish-red shoulder-patch and very well-defined purplish-blue ear-coverts.

Hab. Mombasa, Samburu, Maungu, N'di.

Type. Samburu, 18. x. 1917. Tring Museum.

Lamprocolius corruscus mandanus, subsp. nov.

Bills much slenderer ; wings 100–105 mm. In colour like *L. corruscus corruscus*. (*Lamprotornis corrusca* Nordm. is an older name for *L. melanogaster*, as shown by Neumann, Orn. Monatsber, 1910, p. 9.)

Hab. Lamu, Manda, M'koi, Mombasa.

Type. ♂, Manda, 22. iv. 1916, in my collection.

Anthus sokokensis, sp. nov.

Head and mantle black, with broad buff edges to the feathers ; rump and upper tail-coverts rufous-buff with black centres to the feathers; central pair of rectrices yellow, slightly darker along the shaft ; outer pair white on outer web, inner web black, except terminal half, which is white, which colour is graduated up the shaft to basal third; penultimate pair buff on outer web with tip of inner white for 12 mm. ; rest of inner web blackish ; remainder of tail-feathers blackish with rusty-buff margins ; all feathers pointed. Primaries blackish brown, with a wide whitish inner margin to the basal half of inner webs. Secondaries darker brown-black, broadly margined with buff. Greater coverts and scapulars blackish, with paler buff edges and broad buff tips. Median wing-coverts black, with conspicuous buffy-white tips. Lesser wing-coverts black, with buff edges and tips. Lores buff, with a few black specks.

Ear-coverts buff, with marginal feathers brown-black tipped, forming a line of demarcation. Entire throat white, breast and lower surface of body white, with conspicuous large triangular black spots on the breast, lessening in size on the sides of body and lower breast and again increasing on the flanks. Under tail-coverts buffy-white. Thighs buff, with black spots. Under wing-coverts and axillaries white. Culmen 11 mm., wings, 66, tarsus 16.

Hab. Sokoke Forest on coast of B.E.A. In forest, keeping to the more open areas of undergrowth.

Type. ♂, Sokoke Forest, 14. 1. 21, in Tring Museum. Five specimens.

Mirafra fischeri kawirondensis, subsp. nov.

Very much like *M. f. fischeri* and *M. f. zombæ* (which is closely allied to *M. f. fischeri*) from the coast-region, but is much more blackish. There are also two colorations, some birds being more blackish, others browner. The blackish ones have no bars, brown ones show them more or less. Wings: ♂ 78–81, ♀ 74–80 mm.

Hab. Kisumu, Karungu, Kendu Bay, Kibigori, also Sovoti and Entebbe.

Type. ♂, Kisumu, 9. xii. 1917. Tring Museum.

Callene sokokensis, sp. nov.

Allied to *C. æquatoralis* Jackson, from which it differs by its smaller size, much paler orange-yellow underside and whiter breast and abdomen, less olive-greenish mantle, and by having the lores greyish-white and the superciliary stripe grey, and also the lesser wing-coverts grey.

Type. ♀, Sokoke Forest, coast of B.E.A., 21. 1. 21, in Tring Museum. Three specimens.

Centropus superciliosus intermedius, subsp. nov.

Differs from the typical South-Arabian bird in being darker above and smaller. Wings 140–155 mm.

Type. ♂ adult, 12. iv. 19, Mombasa, van Someren coll. in Tring Museum.

Dr. Ernst Hartert sent the following description of a new *Pycnonotus* :—

Pycnonotus barbatus nigeriæ, subsp. nov.

These Bulbuls have hitherto been united with *P. barbatus inornatus* from Sierra Leone to the Gold Coast, but they differ at a glance by the colour of the underside. The throat is darker, almost chocolate-brown, and this colour is continued over the crop and sharply separated from the purer white abdomen. The under wing-coverts are whiter, the upperside darker brown. Wings 93–98 mm.

Hab. Southern Nigeria. 25 specimens collected on the Lower Niger and at Warri by Ansorge, Felix Ruth, and Braham.

Type. ♂ ad., Degama, 23. v. 1902. W. J. Ansorge leg. No. 478, Tring Museum.

Mr. David Bannerman exhibited a new race of the Negro-Finch from Northern Angola, West Africa, which he described as follows :—

Nigrita canicapilla angolensis, subsp. nov.

Adult male and female. Similar to *N. c. canicapilla* from Fernando Po, but considerably darker on upper parts, which are more sooty-grey, particularly on the head and mantle; rump slightly deeper grey ; the white margin between the grey of the head and the black forehead duller and narrower, not nearly so clearly defined as in the typical bird. The white spots on the lesser median and greater coverts distinctly smaller ; bill 2 mm. shorter and consequently appears broader.

Bill (exposed culmen) 11 mm. ; wing 72 ; tarsus 15·5.

Type in the British Museum, ♀ ad., Ndala Tando, North Angola, 14. ix. 08. Dr. W. J. Ansorge coll. No. 434. Brit. Mus. Reg. No. 1910. 5. 6. 1432.

Obs. The sexes are alike, eight skins from the same locality were examined.

Lord Rothschild exhibited four specimens of North's Bird of Paradise, *Paradisea apoda granti* North. He remarked that, so far as published records showed, this form was unrepresented in all the European museums, the recorded specimens (including the type) being in the museum at Sydney. He pointed out that this form is intermediate between *P. a. intermedia* De Vis and *P. a. augustæ-victoriæ* Cab., the side-plumes being reddish orange as opposed to the crimson of *P. a. intermedia* and the golden-orange of *P. a. augustæ-victoriæ*. None of the four exhibited have the yellow band below the green throat so wide as in North's type, but the latter himself subsequently obtained examples with narrow bands. The habitat of this form is the low country on the eastern two-thirds of Huon Gulf (Bakawa and Samo Harbour) up to 50 miles inland. North suggests that there may be some of this form in German museums, but none have been recorded.

Lord Rothschild also described the following new species of *Paradisea* :—

Paradisea mixta, sp. nov.

♂ *ad.* Intermediate between *Paradisea minor minor* Shaw and *P. apoda novæguineæ* D'Alb. & Salvad. It has the back and head of *P. m. minor*, but the green frontal band is narrower. The breast cushion is similar to *P. a. novæguineæ*, separate from the lower parts consisting of curled feathers. The ornamental side-plumes are those of *novæguineæ*, NOT similar to *minor*.

2 ♂ ♂. *Habitat*?

The bird may be a hybrid between *minor* and *novæguineæ*, but is not probable.

Mr. P. F. Bunyard exhibited mounted specimens of nest-feathers and down of the American Wigeon (*Mareca americana*) from Buffalo Lake, Alberta, taken by Mr. G. H. Lings on the 31. v. 20, which Mr. Bunyard described as follows :—

Feathers. Terminal portion pure white, basal or downy

portion pale greyish-brown, centre pale brown, extending two-thirds up the feathers and terminating in an arc, lower portion of shaft white.

Measurements. 28 mm.

Down, same colour as downy portion of feathers, but slightly darker, conspicuous white tips, whitish immediately above the calamus.

Feathers and down more greyish than Wigeon (*M. penelope*), but similar in pattern.

The feathers and down of *M. americana* do not appear to have been previously described.

Mr. Michael J. Nicoll sent the following description of a new Sandgrouse :—

Pterocles senegalensis floweri, subsp. nov.

It has been known for some time that the Egyptian form of the Singed Sandgrouse (*P. exustus* auct.) differed from others (*cf.* Neumann, 1919, Hartert, 1920), but material has been lacking for comparison. I have now sent some Fayum specimens to Dr. Hartert, who confirmed my views as to their distinctness. They differ at a glance from the Sudanese form by being darker, more grey on the head, back, and breast, more resembling East African examples (*P. s. olivascens* and another form), but the latter are still darker, the upperside more blackish and more rufescent. The females of *P. s. floweri* are less brownish, the breast-band paler.

Hab. Upper Egypt and Fayum.

Type. ♂ ad., Fayum, 2. iii. 1918. W. Raw leg., in Tring Museum.

Named in honour of Major Stanley S. Flower.

Messrs. Iredale and Bannerman sent the following note with regard to the generic names *Textor* and *Hyphantornis* :—Mr. H. C. Oberholser, with commendable zeal for changing inaccurate names, has recently proposed (Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash. vol. xxxiv. pp. 78, 80, March 31, 1921) some alterations in connection with the generic name *Textor* with which we do not agree, and which, we think, should be

corrected. Oberholser would replace *Textor* auct. by *Alecto* Lesson, 1831, overlooking the fact that *Alecto* Lesson was invalid, being preoccupied three times over. However, the point still to be decided is the correct usage of *Textor*. Prior to Temminck's original use of the name, as quoted by Oberholser, it had been introduced by Lichtenstein in 1823, and it must be considered from his work (viz., Verz. Doubl. zool. Mus. Berlin, p. 24 footnote), where it appears thus: "*F*(*ringilla*) *textrix* n. *Textor malimbus* Temm." If this be acceptable, it might prove *Textor* to be a synonym of *Malimbus* Vieillot, 1805, but that point requires discussion. In any case, *Alecto* cannot be used, and the family name "*Alectuidæ* Oberholser" becomes still-born. **Bubalornis** A. Smith, Rep. Exp. Cent. Afr., App. p. 51 (1836), appears the next in chronological sequence for the so-called *Textor*, the monotype being *Bubalornis niger* Smith; so that the family name would be *Bubalornithidæ*, and the second species *Bubalornis albirostris* (Vieillot). Further, according to Richmond's latest List, the type of *Hyphantornis* Gray, 1844, is *grandis* Gray, which was later made the type of *Hypermegethes* by Reichenow, and as Oberholser does not include this species in his list, apparently he would recognize Reichenow's division. This would still leave *Hyphantornis* auct. nameless, so that until the matter is settled we may use the name **Plesiositagra**, gen. nov., with the type-species here named as *Hyphantornis spekei* Heuglin.

GENERAL INDEX.

A General Index to the 'Bulletin' covering volumes 16 to 39 is now ready and can be obtained, price £1, from the publishers, Messrs. H. F. & G. Witherby, 326 High Holborn, W.C.

The cost of production of this important volume has been very considerable and a serious tax upon the funds of the Club; it is hoped therefore that all members will subscribe for a copy, without which their series of the 'Bulletin' will be incomplete.

The next Meeting of the B. O. C. will be held on Wednesday, the 8th of June, 1921, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, the Dinner at 7 p.m., when Dr. F. M. Chapman, Curator of Ornithology in the American Museum of Natural History, New York, will address the Club on the subject of "The Origin of Andean Bird-life, with special reference to Altitudinal Life-zones." The address will be illustrated by lantern-slides. Members intending to dine are requested to inform the Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. L. Bonhote, Park Hill House, Carshalton, Surrey.

[N.B.—Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice *beforehand* to the Editor at Nat. Hist. Museum, South Kensington, and to place in his hands *not later than at the meeting* MSS. for publication in the Bulletin.]

(Signed)

W. L. Sclater, *Chairman.* Percy R. Lowe, *Editor.* J. L. Bonhote, *Sec. & Treas.*

Smithsonian Institution
JUL 19 1921
National Museum.

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCLXI.

The two-hundred-and-fifty-eighth Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48, Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, June 8th, 1921.

Chairman: W. L. Sclater.

Members present:—E. E. Adams; D. A. Bannerman; E. Bidwell; J. L. Bonhote (*Hon. Sec. and Treas.*); S. Boorman; P. F. Bunyard; C. Chubb; Rear-Admiral Hardy; N. B. Kinnear; G. C. Lambert; Dr. H. Langton, Dr. G. C. Low; Dr. P. R. Lowe (*Editor*); Dr. N. S. Lucas; W. E. F. Macmillan; C. W. Mackworth-Praed; Lt.-Col. Magrath; Dr. P. H. Manson-Bahr; G. M. Mathews; Lt.-Col. R. Meinertzhagen; H. Munt; T. H. Newman; C. Oldham; F. R. Ratcliffe; R. H. Read; Lord Rothschild; D. Seth-Smith; Hon. M. C. Seton; Major A. Sladen; F. W. Smalley; H. Kirke-Swann; Dr. C. B. Ticehurst; G. de H. Vaizey; H. F. Witherby.

Guest of the Club:—Dr. F. M. Chapman, H.M.B.O.U.

Guests:—Sir G. Archer; Hon. G. L. Charteris; H. M. Grisdall; Dr. P. H. Gosse; H. Low; T. W. McNeill; Mrs. Meinertzhagen; W. Rown; S. F. Stewart; Miss E. L. Turner; G. M. Vevers; Major E. H. Ward; T. Wells; C. A. Wood.

Mr. W. L. Sclater communicated the following note on the races of the Two-banded Courser :—

Rhinoptilus africanus (Temm.).

Erlanger (Journ. Ornith. 1905, p. 60), discussing the subspecies of the Two-banded Coursers, rightly stated that there were two races in South Africa, a pale one found in Namaqualand and Damaraland and a more richly-coloured one in Cape Colony ("Südosten"). To the Damaraland race he gave the name *R. a. sharpei*, while for the "Südosten" race he retained the typical name. A reference to the original description will show that the type-locality of *R. africanus* is Great Namaqualand, as Temminck's species is founded on a bird obtained by Levaillant in that country. *R. a. sharpei* is, therefore, obviously a true synonym of *R. a. africanus*, and the more richly-coloured race of Central Cape Colony requires another name. Claude Grant ('Ibis,' 1915, p. 60) further complicated the matter by suggesting Deelfontein, Cape Colony, as the type-locality of *R. a. sharpei*, and making the name refer to the dark instead of the pale race. I would therefore propose

Rhinoptilus africanus granti, nom. nov.,

for the more richly-coloured race from Cape Colony and the Orange Free State.

Type. A male from Deelfontein, Cape Colony, collected by C. H. E. Seimund and C. H. B. Grant, 9. ii. 01. B.M. Reg. No. 1901. 9. 5. 75.

The following is the synonymy of the two races :—

Rhinoptilus africanus africanus.

Cursorius africanus Temminck, Cat. Syst. Cab. Orn. pp. 175, 263 (1807) : Great Namaqualand (Levaillant).

Tachydromus collaris Vieillot, N. Dict. d'Hist. Nat. viii. p. 293 (1817) : Africa (ex Temminck coll. also apparently founded on the same bird).

Cursorius bicinctus Temminck, Man. d'Orn. 2nd ed. ii. p. 515 (1820) : apparently founded on the same bird.

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Rhinoptilus africanus sharpei Erlanger, Journ. Orn. 1905, p. 60: Damaraland (Lübbert).

RHINOPTILUS AFRICANUS GRANTI.

Rhinoptilus africanus sharpei Grant (nec Erlanger), Ibis, 1915, p. 61.

Mr. W. L. SCLATER also communicated the following note on the Red-necked Francolin (*Pternistes afer*), with a description of a new subspecies:—

Dr. Neumann pointed out so long ago as 1898 (J. f. O. p. 299) that Ogilvie-Grant in the Catalogue had misapplied the name *Pternistes humboldti* (Peters. Monatsb. Akad. Berlin. 1854, p. 134: Tete) to the Nyasaland bird, which is distinguished by the ring of white feathers extending round the bare throat-patch. From an examination of the type from Tete, which was a young bird, and of another example from Kilimane, he states that the feathers surrounding the naked throat are black speckled with white, and he figures the heads of the four races on a coloured plate. In another note, published last year (J. f. O. 1920, p. 76), he shows that the name commonly used for the Cape Red-necked Francolin, *Pternistes nudicollis* (Bodd.), is founded on the plate in Daubenton (Planches Enl. ii. pl. 48. no. 180), as is also Müller's name *Tetrao afer*. In my opinion these corrections and emendations must be accepted, and the following is a synopsis of the races as they should now be recognised :—

PTERNISTES AFER AFER.

Tetrao afer P. L. S. Müller, Syst. Nat. Suppl. p. 129 (1776): Africa (founded on Buffon's plate). I suggest Benguella as type-locality.

Tetrao nudicollis Boddaert, Tabl. Pl. Enl. p. 11 (1783): Africa (ex Daubenton's Pl. Enl. 180).

Tetrao rubricollis Gmelin, Syst. Nat. i. pt. 1, p. 758 (1789): Africa (also founded on Pl. Enl. 180).

A white patch on the sides of the face from the gape halfway down the sides of the naked throat, but not surrounding it. Lower parts streaked blackish-brown and white in about equal parts.

Distr. Angola.

PTERNISTES AFER LEUCOPARÆUS.

Francolinus (*Pternistes*) *leucopareus* Fischer & Reichenow, Journ. Ornith. 1884, p. 263: Kipi, at mouth of Tana river.

Pternistes nudicollis melanogaster Neumann, Journ. Ornith. 1898, p. 299: Tanga.

White ring as in the typical form, lower breast and belly black, only the flanks streaked.

Distr. East Africa from the Tana river southwards through the inland and western portion of Tanganyika Territory to Nyasaland, there chiefly met with at the higher elevations.

Pternistes afer swynnertoni, subsp. n.

Resembling *P. a. leucoparæus*, but the white on the sides of the head much more extensive, forming a broad ring round the naked throat-patch and extending over the forehead and supercilium, and in older birds almost meeting behind on the nape of the neck.

Type. A male from the Chirinda forest in Gazaland, collected by C. F. M. Swynnerton (B.M. Reg. No. 1910. 7. 1. 6).

Distr. Eastern Rhodesia and the neighbouring part of Portuguese East Africa, where it was collected by Claude Grant at Beira and Coguno and was identified by myself as *P. humbolti* ('Ibis,' 1912, p. 43).

PTERNISTES AFER KREBSI.

Pternistes afer krebsi Neumann, Journ. Ornith. 1920, p. 78: Kaffraria in eastern Cape Province.

Pternistes nudicollis auct., *nec* Bodd.

Feathers at the sides of the face dusky or blackish, posteriorly speckled with white, but no white ring round the naked throat-patch. Belly striped with dusky brown and white.

Distr. Southern part of Cape Province from Swellendam east to Natal, also recorded from the Lydenburg district of the Transvaal.

It is difficult to believe that *Pternistes castaneiventer* Gunning & Roberts (Ann. Transv. Mus. iii. p. 110, 1911: Fort Beaufort distr., Cape Prov.) can be anything but a young example of this species.

PTERNISTES AFER HUMBOLDTI.

Francolinus humboldti Peters, Monatsber. Akad. Berlin, 1854, p. 134: Tete.

Resembling *P. a. krebsi*, but the lower breast and belly in adult black, and only striped with white on the flanks.

Distr. The Zambesi and Loangwa valleys, Mozambique, and the southern part of Tanganyika Territory.

Mr. DAVID BANNERMAN proposed to separate as a distinct subspecies the race of *Cyanomitra obscura* inhabiting the mainland of West Africa.

It had already been pointed out by Ogilvie-Grant (Trans. Zool. Soc. xix. 1910, p. 321) that *C. obscura obscura* from Fernando Po, the type-locality, was distinct from the Continental bird, but Ogilvie-Grant united the latter with the Abyssinian race *C. o. ragazzii* Salvad, a course with which Mr. Bannerman could not agree. This left the West-African race without a name, and Mr. Bannerman proposed to call it:—

Cyanomitra obscura guineensis, subsp. nov.

Adult male and female. Distinguished from *C. o. obscura* by having the underparts duskier (not pale greenish-white, as in Fernando Po birds), by the base of the lower mandible being darker horn-colour and less white, and by its smaller size: the wing of 71 adult specimens measured 52–65 mm., average 59 mm., against 22 adult specimens from Fernando Po 58–68 mm., average 64 mm.

C. o. ragazzii, the Abyssinian form, differs from the new race in having the upper parts brighter green and the under parts darker, strongly washed with yellowish-olive

C. o. guineensis ranges from Portuguese Guinea to Northern Angola and into the Belgian Congo.

Type in the British Museum. ♂ ad. B.M. Reg. No. 1911.12.18.291. Nanna Kru, Liberia, West Africa. 1 Jan., 1911. W. P. Lowe coll., presented by Capt. G. C. Hardy, R.N.

Bill 22, wing 58, tarsus 15 mm.

Material examined : *C. o. guineensis*, 109 specimens from West Africa (excluding the Belgian Congo) ; *C. o. obscura*, 31 specimens from Fernando Po.

The status of this new race will be discussed more fully in the report on Mr. Lowe's Lagos Collection, *cf.* 'Ibis,' October 1921.

Mr. Bannerman also sent the description of a new race of the White-fronted Grosbeak-Weaver from Northern Angola, of a Serin-Finch from St. Thomas Island, and of a Sun-bird (*Anthreptes*) from Cameroon.

He characterised these birds as follows :—

Amblyospiza albifrons tandæ, subsp. nov.

Adult male. Most nearly allied to *Amblyospiza albifrons capitalba* from the Gold Coast, from which it differs in its larger size, the wings of males measuring 90–91 mm. (in *A. a. capitalba* the wing measures 81–87 mm.), also by having a considerably larger white speculum on the wing. The coloration of the underparts is similar to *A. a. capitalba*. As in all the races of *A. albifrons*, the new form shows considerable variation in the tone of the chestnut of the head and breast.

It is noteworthy that this new race is separated geographically from the Gold Coast bird by *Amblyospiza albifrons saturata* Sharpe, which inhabits Cameroon ; this is a large race, but is distinguished at once from both *capitalba* and *tandæ* by the much darker grey of the under surface.

The female is intermediate in size between the females of *A. a. capitalba* and *A. a. saturata*, which it resembles in coloration.

Iris dark brown ; feet purplish-black ; bill greenish-black.

Type in the British Museum. ♂ ad. Brit. Mus. Reg. 1909.8.5.237. 1 Jan., 1909. N'Dala Tando, Northern Angola. Dr. W. J. Ansorge coll.

Bill (exposed culmen) 18, wing 90, tarsus 22·5 mm.

Obs. Five males and two females of this new race are in the British Museum.

In the 'Ibis,' 1915, p. 101, when publishing the results of Boyd Alexander's investigations in the island of St. Thomas, Gulf of Guinea, I identified the Grey-headed Serin-Finch which he obtained there as *Serinus hartlaubi*. Recently Messrs. Sclater and Praed ('Ibis,' 1918, p. 467) pointed out that the birds which I then named *S. hartlaubi* did not exactly agree with any mainland race. Taking into consideration the isolated position of this bird, and that it will probably become even more differentiated as time goes on, I propose to name it :—

Serinus mozambicus santhomé, subsp. nov.

Adult male. Most nearly allied to *S. m. tando* (N. Angola), from which it differs in having the upper parts less conspicuously streaked, especially on the crown of the head. Distinguished from *S. m. caniceps* (Senegal–S. Nigeria) by having the head green instead of grey. From *S. m. punctigula* (Cameroon) it is distinguished by lacking the bright green back of that race.

Bill 8, wing 65, tarsus 14 mm.

Type in the British Museum. B.M. Reg. No. 1911.12.23.3951. St. Thomas Island, Gulf of Guinea, 23 Feb., 1909. Boyd Alexander coll.

Anthreptes fraseri cameroonensis, subsp. nov.

Adult male. Distinguished from *Anthreptes fraseri fraseri*, from Fernando Po, by its duller underparts (more olive-green and less yellow). It is also a smaller bird, although the measurements overlap. *A. f. cameroonensis* (males) 64–73 mm. ; *A. f. fraseri* (males) 70–80 mm.

Range. Cameroon and Gaboon.

Type in the British Museum. ♂ ad. (testes large). B.M. Reg. No. 1908. 5. 25. 91. River Ja, Cameroon, 18 Feb., 1906. G. L. Bates coll.

Bill (exposed culmen) 17, wing 71, tail 55, tarsus 17 mm.

Obs. There are 15 specimens of this new form in the British Museum and 11 of the typical bird.

Lord Rothschild described a new Bird-of-Paradise, as follows :—

Paradisea apoda subintermedia, subsp. nov.

Adult male. Differs from *P. a. intermedia* in the dull cinnabar-scarlet, not brilliant crimson, of the nuptial side-plumes, thus approaching in colour *P. mariæ.* The shafts of the inner two-thirds of the side-plumes are also a light salmon-orange, not orange-chrome as in *P. a. intermedia.* The shoulder-stripe is also much smaller, owing to the less extent of yellow on the smaller wing-coverts. There also appears to be less yellow on the rump than in *P. a. intermedia.* 9 ♂ ♂. Inland from Huon Gulf.

This new form is one of the *P. apoda* group with a large cushion of curled feathers on the breast. I should have kept the forms without the cushion as a separate species from those with the cushion, only *P. a. raggiana* forms a connecting-link. The named *P. apoda* forms therefore are as follows :—*P. apoda apoda*, Aru Islands ; *P. a. novæguineæ* from Ætna Bay to the Fly River ; *P. a. raggiana*, Fly River to Samarai ; *P. a. intermedia*, Collingwood Bay to Holnicote Bay, N.E. Coast ; *P. a. subintermedia,* probably coast and inland of Traitors' and Hercules Bays ; *P. a. granti*, coast and inland of most of Huon Gulf west of Hercules Bay ; *P. a. augustæ victoriæ*, coast and inland, up to 2000 ft., round Sattleberg and Rawlinson Mts. Westwards of the Sattleberg Mountain to Astrolabe Bay, North records *P. a. granti* again ; but no authentic specimens of any *P. apoda* form from this region have been examined by me. Many of the trade-skins from N.E. New Guinea have the side-plumes darker orange than in *P. a. augustæ victoriæ,* but not so dark or so reddish

as in *P. a. granti* ; these may be the birds from west of Finsch Hafen, but I do not venture as yet to give them a name.

On the Fly River, where *P. a. novæguineæ* and *P. a. raggiana* meet, a number of intergradations occur, ranging in the colour of the side-plumes from flame-scarlet to orange-yellow. These are considered to be hybrids by those who treat *P. apoda* and *P. raggiana* as species, but I consider them to be intergradations between two subspecies.

Mr. N. B. Kinnear sent the following descriptions of new races :—

Certhia himalayana intermedia, subsp. nov.

Very similar to *C. himalayana yunnanensis* Sharpe, but with a distinct ferruginous tinge, and not so grey as in that race. From *C. himalayana himalayana* it differs in being darker, less ferruginous, and the fulvous band on the primaries much paler, while on the underside it is whiter.

Type in the British Museum. Mt. Victoria, S. Chin Hills, Burma, 6500 ft. Col. G. Rippon coll. Brit. Mus. Reg. No. 1905. 9. 10. 529.

Obs. Nine specimens examined (none sexed), all from same locality at from 8000–8800 ft.

Mirafra africana ruwenzoria, subsp. nov.

Similar to *M. africana tropicalis* Hartert, but much darker and with a less rufous tinge on the back, while on the neck and the back of the head it is less pronounced. The blackish-brown centres to all the feathers on the upperside are broader and darker, and the underside is slightly paler.

Type. ♂. Mokia, S.E. Ruwenzori, 3400 ft., 4 June, 1906. R. E. Dent. No. 425, Brit. Mus. Reg. No. 1906. 12. 23. 473.

Obs. In describing the collections made by the Ruwenzori Expedition in the Trans. Zool. Soc. 1910, p. 311, Mr. Ogilvie-Grant considered the Rufous-naped Lark to be identical with *Mirafra africana tropicalis* Hartert, but, after examining

the eight skins in the Museum, all from the same locality, I consider it is a distinct subspecies as above.

Dr. Percy R. Lowe sent the following description of a new Petrel from the Galapagos Islands, as follows :—

Oceanites gracilis galapagoensis, subsp. nov.

Differs from *O. g. gracilis* in its larger measurements, in its uniformly lighter coloration, and in the more diffuse and less conspicuous arrangement of the white on the abdomen.

Type in Brit. Mus. ♂ ad. Charles Island, Galapagos Group, 4. xi. 1897. Webster-Harris Exped. Reg. Brit. Mus. 99. 9. 1. 523.

The wings of two adult females measured 145 and 142 mm., those of two males 140 and 136 mm. The wings of two adult female *O. gracilis gracilis*, from Chile and Peru respectively, measured 128 mm. and 130 mm. ; of two males from Peru 127 mm.

It is to be noted that the lighter coloration of the examples examined from the Galapagos is *not* due to fading through age.

Dr. Lowe also described a new race of Shearwater from the western end of the Mediterranean under the name of :—

Puffinus puffinus mauretanicus, subsp. nov.

Similar to *P. p. yelkouan*, but with under tail-coverts, feathers of the crissum, flanks, and axillaries entirely and uniformly smoky brown. In the cervical region the smoky greyish-brown coloration extends well forward from the sides towards the mid-line in front, and also from the flanks across the lower abdomen.

Type in Brit. Mus. Algiers, 22. ii. 13. Reg. No. 1905. 6. 28. 1249. (Cavendish-Taylor Bequest.)

Measurements: bill 38, wing 245, tarsus 48, middle toe with claw 57 mm.

Six examples examined from Algeria, Malaga, and Devonshire.

Note. The two birds from Devonshire have been referred to as *P. p. yelkouan* in Godman's 'Monograph of the Petrels,' but obviously belong to this overlooked race from the Western Mediterranean. The breeding-locality of *P. p. mauretanicus* will probably be found to be either the Island of Alboran or the Habbas Islands. It is doubtful if records of *P. p. yelkouan* from the British Isles are correct.

Mr. Robert H. Read exhibited two nests of Mistle-Thrush as interesting examples of adaptation to environment. One, made externally of a great mass of hoary tree-lichens, was taken from the upper branches of an old apple-tree in Somerset covered with the same material. The other, taken from the lower fork of a lime-washed apple-tree in Kent, was covered externally with a mass of white wool to correspond with its surroundings.

Mr. P. F. Bunyard exhibited two clutches of four, and three clutches of three eggs of the Solitary Sandpiper, *Tringa solitarius*, from Alberta, May 28th–June 6th; all from old nests of the American Robin, *Turdus migratorius*: also two typical clutches of the Yellowshank, *Tringa flavipes*, from Alberta, and Saskatchewan, June 1 and 6.

Previous to 1904 the eggs of the Solitary Sandpiper were unknown. They were first described and figured in this country in the 'Ibis' for 1907. Those exhibited represented the two known forms, *i. e.* those with the greenish and brownish ground, both of which were figured in the 'Ibis.' The eggs of the Wood and Solitary Sandpiper very closely resemble one another, as one would naturally expect from two such closely allied species—those of *T. solitarius*, however, are slightly smaller.

Dr. F. M. Chapman, Curator of Ornithology in the American Museum of Natural History, New York, then addressed the Club on the subject of "The Origin of Andean Bird-Life, with special reference to Altitudinal Life-Zones."

Having outlined the chief features of the problem presented by the effect of the elevation of the Andes on the

distribution and evolution of bird-life, he dwelt on the necessity for intensive collecting and accurate labelling of specimens, as well as a more systematic study of the factors comprised under the headings of topography and climate.

He then briefly sketched the various life-zones of the Andean chain—Tropical, Subtropical, Temperate, and "Paramo"—illustrating his remarks with a series of beautiful lantern-slides, which formed a fitting background to his remarks upon their characteristic features, their altitudinal limits, their origin, and the development of their several faunas.

A very interesting and important fact to note in reviewing the Andean faunas was the Zoological "fault" in the subtropical zone, between the northern extremity of the Western Andes and the mountains of Western Panama. Here we found that some sixty species, common to the localities just cited, were wanting in the intervening area—a fact which had been considered to indicate subsidence therein.

From this the attention of members was drawn to a comparison of the Avifauna of the Temperate Zone forests of the Urubamba region in Southern Peru with that of the adjoining plains of the Paramo or Puna Zone. The first was derived from the tropical forests at the eastern base of the range, the latter from the South Temperate Zone plains of Patagonia and Argentina. Of the genera inhabiting the Temperate Zone forests 55 per cent. were endemic, while only 7 per cent. of the Paramo genera were so. This condition of things might be considered due to the fact that, in ascending from the Tropical to the Temperate Zone forests, birds had experienced far greater environmental change than in passing from the South Temperate Zone of Patagonia to an Andean Temperate Zone; hence it was believed that the degree of environmental change, expressed primarily in climatic conditions, was a more potent evolutionary factor than those exerted by time, isolation, or distance in space from the original home of the presumed ancestral form.

THE NINTH OOLOGICAL DINNER.

THE NINTH OOLOGICAL DINNER was held at Pagani's Restaurant on 23rd March, 1921. Lord ROTHSCHILD took the Chair at 7 o'clock, thirty members and their guests being present.

Mr. EDGAR CHANCE made a very remarkable exhibit of eggs of the Red-backed Shrike. These eggs were the full layings throughout a season of 40 birds. Of these 40 series only four had laid five sets each in the season, and of the remainder 18 laid four sets each, and 18 laid three sets each.

By this series Mr. Chance was able to show comparisons between eggs taken from precisely the same breeding site or territory in different seasons, sometimes consecutive and sometimes not. His observations made over a period of years, and covering 500 nests of the Shrike, demonstrate that whereas in some instances eggs of the same ground-colour are found in the same breeding-territory in consecutive seasons, yet in other instances such is not the case.

Mr. Chance's opinion is that, whereas the eggs of the Red-backed Shrike laid by the same female in the same season are invariably identical, yet they may be subject to decided variation in different seasons.

The exhibit also demonstrated conclusively that the taking of the first and second layings of this bird does not materially reduce the number of the species reared. On one occasion three "sixes" were obtained from the same bird, and as often as not the second laying contained as many, or more, eggs than the first.

Mr. E. T. CROSOER showed a small number of clutches of the Red-backed Shrike and the Spotted Flycatcher.

Among the latter were two eggs (taken from a clutch of five) in a typical nest from Canterbury. The ground-colour was pale blue, and the not unusual pale lilac markings were present; but the superficial brown pigmentation was of a chocolate tint. These eggs excited lively interest, as they formed a complete break-away from any known type.

Another very handsome set of large eggs kindly lent to the exhibitor by Mr. P. H. Marsh of Chelmsford was also shown.

Mr. P. B. Smyth exhibited a set of Nightingale's eggs, believed to be unique.

Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker exhibited the following eggs of Oriental Shrikes and Flycatchers :—

Shrikes.

Lanius schach tephronotus. The Grey-backed Shrike. A series from Tibet, which show the comparatively narrow range of variation in this Shrike's eggs. It will be noted that there is but a single egg of the red type.

Lanius tigrinus. The Thick-billed Shrike. A series from Japan, showing that red is the typical colour in this species.

Graucalus macei macei. The Large Cuckoo-Shrike. A small series of these most unskrike-like eggs with their stone-coloured or greenish ground, profusely and boldy blotched with deep umber-brown and neutral tint.

Graucalus macei ceylonensis. The Ceylon Cuckoo-Shrike. A single egg, unique, of this small form.

Graucalus dobsoni. The Andaman Cuckoo-Shrike. Two of the very few known eggs of this bird, which is a good species, and not a race of *macei*.

Campophaga. A series showing eggs of races of *C. melanoschista* (the Grey Cuckoo-Shrike) and of *C. sykesi* (the Black-headed Cuckoo-Shrike), and a single clutch of *terat*, of which there are only three or four clutches known.

Tephrodornis pondicerianus. A series of both the common Indian form and of the Ceylon race. The eggs of the latter are much lighter and more green, less brown. It is noticeable

also that, whereas the Indian bird generally lays three eggs, sometimes four, the Ceylon bird usually lays but two or, rarely, three.

Pericrocotus peregrinus. The Small Minivet. A fine series, showing a wide range of variation. The two Siamese clutches are remarkable in the way they differ from all the others.

Artamus fuscus and races. The Ashy Swallow-Shrike. A series showing that, though the races of these birds differ considerably, the eggs are very constant.

FLYCATCHERS.

Muscicapa grisola neumanni. The Eastern Spotted Flycatcher. A small series, showing how these eggs agree well with those of the Western form.

Siphia. A box containing eggs of *S. strophiata*, always white eggs, and those of the European, the Eastern, and the Indian Red-breasted Flycatchers. Of the first-named there are only three or four clutches known.

Cyornis. Three sets, the first showing series of *C. superciliaris* and *C. l. leucomelanurus*, with a single unique set of *C. l. cerviniventris.* These are good examples of the almost unicoloured pink and olive-brown types, which are the most common in this genus. A single unique egg of *Cyornis cyaneus* and series of *Cyornis hodgsoni* and *C. hyperythrus* show more freely spotted and blotched types, whilst in the series of *C. pallidipes* from Travancore and the two only known clutches of *Cyornis unicolor* we have the boldly blotched types which are the exception.

Stoparola melaños melanops. The Verditer Flycatcher. This Flycatcher lays eggs from practically pure white to a deep pink, and it is extremely common in many parts of the Himalayas. It has been easy to obtain a series showing wide differences in colour, size, and shape.

Muscitrea grisola. The Grey Flycatcher. This very aberrant Flycatcher lays very aberrant eggs, but they show some resemblance to the eggs of Rhipidura. They were quite unknown until taken by Messrs. B. B. Osmaston and, later, by Mr. P. Wickham in the Andamans.

Anthipes leucops and *A. poliogenys*. Series showing the interesting contrast between the two types of eggs laid by the two groups of this genus. Those of *A. leucops* have, I believe, been taken by no one but myself.

Alseonax. Of this genus are shown *A. latirostris*, the Brown Flycatcher, now on the British list, *A. ruficaudus* and *A. muttui*. In colour and character they agree well with the more unicoloured eggs of *Cyornis*.

Niltava. The larger birds of this genus, *N. grandis* and *N. sundara*, lay eggs like those of *Stoparola*, only differing in size, whereas the small Niltava lays eggs of a much more freely spotted character.

Terpsiphone paradisi affinis. The Burmese Paradise Flycatcher. The series shown of these beautiful eggs would serve equally well for those of any of the other Paradise Flycatchers.

Hypothymis azurea prophata and *H. a. tytleri*. Two series of the first very common egg and the second very rare one show how closely these eggs resemble in all but size those of *Terpsiphone*.

Rhipidura. The series shown are those of the species *javanica* and *pectoralis*, two of the less common forms; the eggs are typical of the genus and are unlike most of the other Flycatchers' eggs.

Chelidorhynx hypoxanthum. These very rare eggs are nearest the pink type of *Cyornis*, though the genus is nearest to the genus *Rhipidura*.

Mr. Percy F. Bunyard exhibited the following eggs from his collection :—

Great Grey Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*). A series of five typical clutches from Prussia and Norwegian Lapland.

Pallid Shrike. *L. e. elegans*. A clutch of five and four from Kantara, Egypt, April 23 and June 11, 1918 (D. W. Musselwhite, 'Ibis,' vol. ii. No. 1, Jan. 1920, p. 313). These do not differ from typical *L. excubitor* eggs.

Southern Great Grey Shrike (*L. meridionalis*). A

clutch of six typical eggs, also a clutch of six exceptionally handsome eggs, heavily blotched with rich dark brown, mostly confined to the large ends, both from Spain, April 19 and 26, 1907.

Lesser Grey Shrike (*Lanius minor*). These remarkably handsome eggs were well represented by thirteen typical clutches, some of which were very boldly blotched, mostly from Roumania.

Red-backed Shrike (*Lanius collurio*). A series of one hundred clutches, from which repetition had been carefully eliminated; these were divided into two types, showing the extreme and modified forms of each.

Mr. Bunyard then made the following remarks on them:—

The eggs of the Red-backed Shrike (*Lanius collurio*) have oologically highly specialized characteristics, and cannot be confused with those of any other British breeding-bird, the marked variation in the ground-colour and arrangement of the pigmentation equals in many respects those of the Tree-Pipit (*A. trivialis*). Two types appear to be constant—those with the whitish to greenish ground-colour and those with the cream to reddish ground. These occur in about equal proportions, though it is sometimes stated on very meagre evidence that in certain localities one of the two types predominate. Age undoubtedly has some influence on pigmentation, and if certain local climatic conditions have any influence on food-supplies, then I must admit the highly probable influence that food may have on pigmentation. I have proved beyond doubt that there is no transition in a single season, *i. e.*, the same female will, if nests are systematically taken, produce the same type up to as many as three to five clutches.

Lechner *—in my opinion, rightly—assumes that certain individuals belong to oologically differentiated tribes, each having its own type of egg, which, of course, must not be confused with varieties, as each type has the extreme and modified forms. This is, I think, generally admitted to be

* 'Oologia Neerlandica,' A. A. van Pelt Lechner.

the result of age-transition, *i. e.*, gradual assumption or loss of pigment.

The arrangement of the pigmentation in eggs of *L. collurio* shows considerable variation, zoned or banded eggs predominating. These are frequently composed of bold markings, and sometimes of very minute markings, generally above the greater axis. These zones are in some cases dense with sharply defined edges, giving them a remarkably handsome appearance, in others the markings are scattered at the edges of the zones. The modified forms have evenly distributed, very minute markings confined to the broader axis, and rarely to the extreme large ends. Eggs showing evenly distributed markings, of which I show two clutches, must be considered unusual. Almost unmarked eggs occur.

Woodchat (*Lanius senator*). A representative series of twelve clutches from Spain, Holland, etc., these do not differ greatly from eggs of *L. collurio*, the greenish-ground form, however, predominates.

Masked Shrike (*Lanius nubicus*). A clutch of five typical eggs from Mersina, Asia Minor, May 7, 1919 (Dresser); these are distinctive and cannot be confused with those of the other members of the genus.

Ground-colour pale yellowish buff; markings pale brown; under-lying markings ash-grey; arrangement of markings, zoned.

Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa grisola*). A series of twenty-four clutches showing great variation, among them two clutches of five showing true erythrism, Kent and Radnor; a clutch of five umarked resembling *M. atricapilla* eggs, a clutch of five resembling those of *S. rubicola*, Northants.

Brown Flycatcher (*Alseonax latirostris*). Two clutches of five from Fugi Hondo, Japan, May 14, 1897, and May 17, 1898; these are self-coloured eggs of greenish-buff slightly tinged with rufous, and there are no mottlings visible even to the aided eye. The texture is coarse and moderately glossy.

Pied Flycatcher (*Muscicapa atricapilla*). A series of fourteen clutches from Northumberland and Radnor, these are

several shades paler than eggs of *Phœnicurus phœnicurus*, even when fresh-blown, and when faded resemble in colour eggs of *Œnanthe œnanthe*; in the series there is one clutch of very large eggs with a single egg of Great Tit. Tits' eggs have several times been found in the nests of the Pied Flycatcher.

White-collared Flycatcher (*Muscicapa collaris*). A clutch of six from Mahren, 12. 5. 15, these do not differ from *M. atricapilla* eggs either in size, shape, or colour.

Red-breasted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa parva*). Two typical clutches of five from Brandenburg, these are distinctive and could not be easily confused with eggs of *M. grisola*; the very fine pale mottlings, almost completely concealing the ground-colour, are characteristic.

Lord Rothschild exhibited the eggs of the following living and extinct Struthious birds:—

Struthio camelus camelus Linn.
„ „ *syriacus* Rothsch.
„ *molybdophanes* Reichen.
„ *australis* Garn.
„ *massaicus* Neum.
Dromiceus novæhollandiæ (Lath.).
Casuarius casuarius sclateri Salv.
„ „ *violicollis* Rothsch.
„ „ *beccarii* Sclat.
„ „ *intensus* × *picticollis*.
„ *unappendiculatus unappendiculatus* Blyth.
„ „ × *violicollis*.
„ „ *occipitalis* Salv.
„ *papuanus papuanus* Schleg.
„ „ *goodfellowii* Rothsch.
„ *picticollis* Sclat.
„ *hecki* Rothsch.
Rhea americana Linn.
„ *rothschildi* Brab. & Chubb.
Pterocnemia pennata D'Orb., laid at Tring.

Apteryx australis australis Shaw.
„ „ *mantelli* Bartl.
„ *oweni oweni* Gould.
„ „ *occidentalis* Rothsch.
Moa. *Anomalopteryx casuarinus.*
Æpyornis maximus.
„ *grandidieri* Rowley.
Type-specimen of *Psammornis rothschildi* Andrews, and a number collected later on.

GENERAL INDEX.

A General Index to the 'Bulletin' covering volumes 16 to 39 is now ready and can be obtained, price £1, from the publishers, Messrs. H. F. & G. Witherby, 326 High Holborn, W.C.

The cost of production of this important volume has been very considerable and a serious tax upon the funds of the Club; it is hoped therefore that all members will subscribe for a copy, without which their series of the 'Bulletin' will be incomplete.

The next Meeting of the B. O. C. will be held on Wednesday, the 12th of October, 1921, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, the Dinner at 7 p.m. Members intending to dine are requested to inform the Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. L. Bonhote, Park Hill House, Carshalton, Surrey.

[N.B.—Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice *beforehand* to the Editor at Nat. Hist. Museum, South Kensington, and to place in his hands *not later than at the meeting* MSS. for publication in the Bulletin.]

(Signed)

W. L. Sclater,	Percy R. Lowe,	J. L. Bonhote,
Chairman.	*Editor.*	*Sec. & Treas.*

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PREFACE.

The number of attendances at the meetings of the Club during the past Session was 402. This is a falling away from the total of the previous Session, but compares favourably with past years.

A large number of new forms have been described, chiefly from the Oriental region—Mr. J. D. La Touche and Lord Rothschild having been busy as regards Yunnan and Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker in regard to Indian forms.

We regret to have to record the death of Mr. R. E. Harvey.

The Session has been remarkable for several addresses and expositions relating to the habits of the Cuckoos. We have also had the pleasure of welcoming, among other visitors to our meetings, the following gentlemen from distant lands:—Mr. J. P. Chapin and Dr. Jonathan Dwight from New York; Dr. John C. Phillips of Wenham, Massachusetts; Mr. T. Gilbert Pearson, President of the National Association of the Audubon Societies of America; Messrs. E. Ashby and C. L. E. Orton from Australia; and Dr. Lorenz from Austria.

At the Annual General Meeting Dr. A. F. R. Wollaston exhibited a series of lantern-slides illustrative of the Mt. Everest Expedition.

It is with much regret that we learn that Mr. J. L. Bonhote has been compelled, through indisposition, to resign the Secretaryship of the Club. We can ill afford to lose his valuable services.

(Signed) PERCY R. LOWE,
Editor.

London, September 1922.

RULES

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

(*As amended, January 12th,* 1921.)

I. This Club was founded for the purpose of facilitating the social intercourse of Members of the British Ornithologists' Union. Any Member of that Union can become a Member of this Club on payment (to the Treasurer) of an entrance fee of *One Pound* and a subscription of *One Guinea* for the current Session. Resignation of the Union involves resignation of the Club.

II. Members who have not paid their subscriptions before the last Meeting of the Session, shall cease, *ipso facto*, to be Members of the Club, but may be reinstated on payment of arrears.

III. Ordinary Members of the British Ornithologists' Union may be introduced as Visitors at the Meetings of the Club, but every Member of the Club who introduces a Member of the B. O. U. as a Visitor (to the dinner or to the Meeting afterwards) shall pay *One Shilling* to the Treasurer *on each occasion.*

IV. No gentleman shall be allowed to attend the Meetings of the Club as a guest on more than three occasions during any single Session ; and no former Member who has been removed for non-payment of subscription or any other cause shall be allowed to attend as a guest. Ladies are not admitted as guests.

V. The Club shall meet, as a rule, on the Second Wednesday in every Month, from October to June inclusive, at such hour and place as may be arranged by the Committee. At these Meetings papers upon ornithological subjects shall be read, specimens exhibited, and discussion invited.

VI. An Abstract of the Proceedings of the B. O. C. shall be printed as soon as possible after each Meeting, under the title of the 'Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club,' and distributed gratis to every Member *who has paid his subscription.* Copies of this Bulletin shall be published and sold at *Two Shillings* each to Members.

Descriptions of new species may be added to the last page of the 'Bulletin,' although such were not communicated at the Meeting of the Club. This shall be done at the discretion of the Editor and so long as the publication of the 'Bulletin' is not unduly delayed thereby.

Any person speaking at a Meeting of the Club shall be allowed subsequently to amplify his remarks in the 'Bulletin'; but no fresh matter shall be incorporated with such remarks.

VII. The affairs of this Club shall be managed by a Committee, to consist of the Chairman, who shall be elected for five years, at the end of which period he shall not be eligible for re-election for the next term, the Editor of the 'Bulletin,' who shall be elected for five years, at the end of which period he shall not be eligible for re-election for the next term, the Secretary and Treasurer, who shall be elected for a term of one year, but shall be eligible for re-election, with four other Members, the senior of whom shall retire each year; every third year the two senior Members shall retire and two others be elected in their place. Officers and Members of the Committee shall be elected by the Members of the Club at a General Meeting, and the names of such Officers and Members of Committee, nominated for the ensuing year, shall be circulated with the preliminary notice convening the General Meeting at least two weeks before the Meeting. Should any Member wish to propose another candidate, the nomination of such, signed by at least two Members, must reach the Secretary at least one clear week before the Annual General Meeting.

Amendments to the Standing Rules of the Club, as well as very important or urgent matters, shall be submitted to Members, to be voted upon at a General Meeting.

VIII. A General Meeting of the B. O. C. shall be held on the day of the October Meeting of each Session, and the Treasurer shall present thereat the Balance-sheet and Report; and the election of Officers and Committee, in so far as their election is required, shall be held at such Meeting.

IX. Any Member desiring to make a complaint of the manner in which the affairs of the Club are conducted must communicate in writing with the Chairman, who will call a Committee Meeting to deal with the matter.

COMMITTEE 1921–1922.

W. L. Sclater, M.A., *Chairman.*
P. R. Lowe, *Editor of the 'Bulletin.'*
J. L. Bonhote, *Secretary and Treasurer.*
Dr. H. Langton. Elected 1921.
The Lord Rothschild, Ph.D., F.R.S. (*Vice-Chairman*). Elected 1918.
Major A. G. L. Sladen. Elected 1921.
The Rev. J. R. Hale. Elected 1920.

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Members are requested to keep the Secretary informed of any changes in their addresses.]

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BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

Smithsonian Institution
NOV 15 1921
National Museum.

No. CCLXII.

The two-hundred-and-fifty-ninth Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48, Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, October 12th, 1921.

Chairman: W. L. Sclater, M.A.

Members present:—E. C. Stuart Baker; D. A. Bannerman; B. J. Bettington; J. L. Bonhote (*Hon. Sec. and Treas.*); S. Boorman; A. W. Boyd; A. D. Bradford; P. F. Bunyard; C. Chubb; Capt. H. L. Cochrane, R.N.; R. H. Deane; Lt.-Col. H. Delmé-Radcliffe; Rev. J. R. Hale; Rear-Admiral E. C. Hardy; Dr. E. Hartert; Capt. E. G. Herbert; T. Iredale; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain; N. B. Kinnear; C. Boden Kloss; Dr. H. Langton; Dr. T. G. Longstaff; Dr. G. C. Low; Dr. P. R. Lowe (*Hon. Editor*); Dr. P. Manson-Bahr; G. M. Mathews; Lt.-Col. R. Meinertzhagen; H. Munt; T. H. Newman; C. Oldham; F. R. Ratcliffe; C. B. Rickett; Lord Rothschild; A. D. Sapsworth; D. Seth-Smith; Major A. G. L. Sladen; E. F. Stanford; H. Kirke Swann; Dr. C. B. Ticehurst; Dr. N. F. Ticehurst; H. M. Wallis; C. J. Wilson; W. H. Workman.

Guests:—F. C. Coulter; K. Fisher; D. Gunn; Dr. Lorenz; R. N. Paddison; T. Wells.

The Annual General Meeting was held at Pagani's Restaurant immediately before the Dinner.

Mr. W. L. Sclater in the Chair.

Mr. J. L. Bonhote and Mr. H. Munt were re-elected as Secretary and Auditor respectively, and Dr. H. Langton and Major Sladen as members of the Committee in the place of the Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain and Col. R. Stephenson Clarke.

The Hon. Treasurer gave a short account of the Finances of the Club, which showed a considerable improvement on those of last year, and the Balance Sheet duly audited was passed.

The following alterations to the Rules were put to the meeting and carried :—

> Rule I., line 3. *Delete* "ordinary."
>
> All members of the Union are therefore eligible for membership to the Club.
>
> Rule IV. *Add* :—"and no former member who has been removed for non-payment of subscription or any other cause shall be allowed to attend as Guest. Ladies are not admitted as Guests."
>
> Rule VII., line 9. *Delete from* "the senior . . . . to retire," *and insert* "the senior of whom shall retire each year; every third year the two senior members shall retire and two others be elected in their place."

The Chairman gave the following Address :—

In accordance with the custom instituted by my revered father, I will briefly review the most important events of the past year in the ornithological world.

First of all, with regard to exploration. Our fellow-member Capt. Hubert Lynes left England at the end of 1920, accompanied by Mr. Willoughby Lowe, for Dafur in the Sudan. Since that date they have been engaged in exploring the Jebel Marra, a volcanic range reaching an altitude of over 10,000 feet. They have made large collections of birds, as well as in other branches of Natural History, so that we hope, when they return next year, their spoil will bring

them great reward. In the same part of the continent, though far removed to the west, Capt. Angus Buchanan has recently made an exploratory expedition on behalf of Lord Rothschild and the Tring Museum. His destination was Asben or Aïr, a range of mountains in the southern part of the Sahara due north of Kano in Nigeria. The results, so far as birds are concerned, of this expedition have recently been published by Dr. Hartert and are of exceptional interest, as bearing on the question of the boundary-line between the Palæarctic and Ethiopian regions.

Another zoological exploration which has recently completed its labours is the Oxford Spitsbergen Expedition. Under the leadership of Mr. Jourdain it has done great things, and we shall hope to see published before long complete results of their investigations. I understand that an unsuspected new Phalarope obtained by the expedition will be described this evening.

Accompanying the Mt. Everest expedition, of which you have probably read a good deal in the newspapers, is Dr. Wollaston, and we may expect soon to see him back in this country with collections of birds and plants.

Finally, we must not forget Mr. G. L. Bates, who is exploring the drier country of eastern Cameroon northwards toward Lake Chad, and Mr. A. de C. Sowerby, who is working for the United States National Museum in China, and Mr. Wilkins, who is with the Shackleton Expedition in the 'Quest,' and hopes to collect birds in the Antarctic Islands.

In the matter of publication there does not appear to be much to report. This is probably due to the great difficulty and cost of printing and publishing in all countries. A second part of Mr. Beebe's magnificent monograph on the 'Pheasants' has appeared, and several more numbers of Dr. Hartert's invaluable 'Birds of the Palæarctic Region' have been issued, and the numbers of the 'Birds of Australia' by Mr. Mathews appear with commendable regularity; while, in collaboration with Mr. Tom Iredale, he has published the first part of a smaller 'Handbook of the Birds of Australia.' Perhaps the two most interesting works published in England during the past year are Dr. Wollaston's 'Life of

Professor Newton' and Mr. Howard's 'Territory in Bird-Life,' both of which have been reviewed at length in the pages of 'The Ibis.' Another work should be mentioned, though it is doubtless well known to you all. I refer to the new work on 'British Birds' by various well-known contributors under the editorship of Mr. Witherby. It is prepared on somewhat novel lines, and certainly contains more information, though in a somewhat cramped space and language, than any other "British Bird Book" hitherto published. Other works completed are Messrs. Mullens, Swann, and Jourdain's 'Geographical Bibliography of British Ornithology' and Mr. Swann's 'List of the Accipitres,' of which we are glad to see he is about to issue a new edition.

During the past year we have to deplore the loss of a good many fellow-workers, both members of the Union and others. Chief among them are Colonel R. G. Wardlaw Ramsay, who for several years presided over the Union, and Colonel Feilden, so much beloved by all who knew him well, and who had such a distinguished record in other fields besides ornithology. We have also lost Mr. H. M. Upcher, the oldest-elected member of the Union, and Major Henry Jones, the talented and patient bird-artist, whose collection of paintings are now in the library of the Zoological Society. The death of Mr. W. Warde Fowler deprives us of one of the most charming and literary minded of popular bird-writers, while Lieut. G. Wyman Bury was a collector and writer of considerable merit. His knowledge of Arabia and the Arabs was probably unique.

Of our fellow-workers abroad we have to deplore the death of Mr. J. A. Allen, for many years the Curator of the Mammals and Birds in the American Museum of Natural History in New York and an Honorary Member of the Union; also Mr. Charles Cory of the Field Museum in Chicago, who has written much on South American Birds; Dr. V. Bianchi of the St. Petersburg Museum, also an Honorary Member of the Union, who died, I believe, of privation in January of this year; while the other prominent names which occur to me are those of M. Alphonse Dubois, the veteran Belgian ornithologist, and of Prof. Max Fürbringer,

of Heidelburg, certainly the leading authority on the anatomy of birds.

Finally, I should like to congratulate our brave French allies on having started a Society of Ornithology, of which M. Ménégaux, our Honorary Member, has been elected President, and our old friend Mr. Charles Chubb on having been awarded the Imperial Service Medal for his long and faithful services in the Bird Room of the British Museum. He entered the service, when the collections were still at Bloomsbury, in 1876, and has therefore been connected with the Museum for over 44 years.

The Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain exhibited a selection of the skins obtained during the visit of the Oxford University Expedition to Norway and Spitsbergen, and made some remarks on the results achieved. The last paper on "The Birds of Spitsbergen," published in the 'Ibis,' is that of Mr. Trevor Battye ('Ibis,' 1897, pp. 574–600), in which only 29 species were recorded, 22 having been observed by members of the Conway expedition, while evidence was given of about a dozen species recorded as breeding. The present expedition identified at least 33 forms, of which no fewer than 24 were found breeding, while the list of birds from the whole group now extends to some 60 species. A series of about 300 skins and 500 eggs was brought back, and it is hoped that this will provide material for a closer study of several Arctic forms. In the case of the Grey Phalarope (*Ph. fulicarius*) this has already resulted in the separation of the Nearctic and Palæarctic forms. Some of the extensions of breeding-ranges were remarkable : *Larus marinus* and *Pluvialis apricarius* being met with breeding on Bear Island, *Erolia alpina*, *Charadrius hiaticula*, and *Arenaria interpres* in Spitsbergen proper. A fine series of specimens of the three species of Goose which breed in Spitsbergen (*Anser brachyrhynchus*, *Branta bernicla*, and *B. leucopsis*) includes examples of all species in the flightless stage, hitherto unrepresented in any of our collections, and considerable numbers of young of several species in the downy stage were also obtained. A brief description

of some of the great bird-colonies and some notes on the changes in the fauna during the last 25 years were also given. One of the great oological successes of the trip was the acquisition of no fewer than 22 eggs of *Branta leucopsis*. Of this species only 12 authentic specimens of the eggs have ever previously been obtained from wild birds. Other interesting eggs taken were those of *Fratercula a. naumanni*, *Somateria spectabilis*, *Uria grylle mandtii*, etc.

Col. Meinertzhagen, on behalf of Mrs. A. C. Meinertzhagen, read out the following description of a new race of the Golden Plover from the British Islands :—

Pluvialis apricarius oreophilos, subsp. nov.

Differs from *P. a. apricarius* in breeding plumage as follows:—Upper parts of both sexes darker and with dark centres to the feathers more conspicuous, the yellow markings being smaller but richer. In the male the black band at the base of the upper mandible is absent or only slightly indicated. Lores, forehead, and eye-stripe more or less suffused golden and spotted black-brown. Feathers of ear-coverts and cheeks black or dusky-brown with imperfectly concealed white bases and tinged golden ; white band from eye down side of neck to breast absent or only imperfectly indicated ; sides of breast intermixed with white and golden feathers spotted with sepia.

In the female the white band down the side of the neck is absent. Sides of breast golden, spotted with sepia. Underparts as in male, but usually with less black.

Size as in *P. a. apricarius*.

Type. ♂, Orphir, Orkneys, Scotland, 27.v.68, e mus. E. Hargitt. Brit. Mus. Reg. No. 97. 11. 10. 433.

Col. Meinertzhagen described the following new race of the Rock-Pigeon (*Columbia livia*) :—

Columba livia butleri, subsp. nov.

Larger and a shade darker, both above and below, than *C. l. schimperi* from Egypt, but not quite so dark above and below as *C. l. gaddi* from Palestine, Mesopotamia, and Central Asia. Smaller than *C. l. palestina* from Arabia

and the desert regions of S. Palestine, which, however, they resemble in colour.

Three males examined. Wings 207, 210, 212 mm.

Type. ♂, Gebeit, Red Sea Province of the Sudan, 22. iii. 12. Butler coll., Brit. Mus. Reg. No. 1915. 12. 24. 255.

Dr. Ernst Hartert exhibited, on behalf of Mr. Michael J. Nicoll, specimens of a new species of Crested Lark and its allies, and of the Egyptian form of *Charadrius varius*. Mr. Nicoll described them as follows :—

Galerida cristata halfæ Nicoll, subsp. nov.

Between *G. c. maculata* (the dark form of the Lower Nile, which is only surpassed in dark coloration by *G. c. nigricans* of the delta) and the paler *G. c. altirostris* (*G. c. nubica* of Bianchi, from the Dongola bend of the Nile), greyer and a little darker than the former, not so sandy as the latter.

Type. ♂ ad., Wadi Halfa, 2. ii. 1921. Stanley S. Flower Coll. (In the Tring Museum.)

Hab. Near Wadi Halfa on the Nile, between the areas inhabited by *G. c. maculata* and *G. c. altirostris*.

Charadrius varius allenbyi Nicoll, subsp. nov.

Exactly like *C. varius varius* from tropical Africa, but averages larger : wings, 5 ♂ 102–111 mm., 6 ♀ 104–112, as against 17 ♂ 98–106, 16 ♀ 98–110 in the tropical form. Nearly every specimen can be distinguished, though there is some overlapping.

Type of *C. v. allenbyi*. ♀, Lake Karoon, Egypt, 10. iii. 1917, D. Paton leg. (In the Tring Museum.)

Hab. Egypt.

Named in honour of Field-Marshal Viscount Sir Edmund Allenby, High Commissioner for Egypt.

Dr. Hartert also exhibited an albinistic female of *Halcyon chloris* shot at Brooketon, Brunei State, Borneo, sent by Mr. J. C. Moulton from the Raffles Museum, Singapore. Its head and back are white with a faint pinkish-blue tinge, quills and wing-coverts very pale viola-

ceous blue, the latter as well as the rump greenish when held away from the light. Underside white, flanks pale buff.

Mr. Tom Iredale exhibited specimens of the Grey Phalarope and said:—Hitherto the Grey Phalarope has been recorded (*e. g.*, by Hartert and by Ridgway) as showing no subspecific form. However, examination of the British Museum collection shows that Palæarctic birds differ appreciably from Nearctic specimens. The latter series was complete, but the former was not so extensive. The Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain was therefore asked to pay special attention to this species in Spitzbergen. This request was willingly attended to and a good series brought back, which absolutely confirmed the earlier conclusions, so that the Palæarctic form is here distinguished as

Phalaropus fulicarius jourdaini, subsp. nov.

Summer plumage. ♀. Separable at sight from the typical form (type-locality, Hudson Bay, North America) in the paler coloration of the edgings of the feathers on the back, scapulars, and tertials. The colour of these edges have been variously named in the American bird as rusty-yellow, golden-buff, cinnamon, pale fawn, and sandy-buff; while in the present form they are only creamy and appear appreciably narrower. The colouring of the under parts is very similar in the two forms.

♂. The differences are not so marked, but just as important: the margins of the feathers on the upper parts are darker in both cases, but the Spitzbergen males are notably paler above and the under surface also seems to be paler.

Winter plumages have not been compared, owing to lack of series.

Type ♀. Liefde Bay, N.W. Spitzbergen, 7. 7. 21.

The male is from the same place, collected on the same day. I have great pleasure in attaching to this distinct form the name of the leader of the Oxford University Expedition to Spitzbergen, 1921.

Mr. D. A. Bannerman exhibited and described a remarkable new Sun-bird from Cameroon, West Africa, which he proposed to name

Anthreptes ogilvie-granti, sp. nov.

Adult female. Upper parts dark olive-green, paler and more yellowish on the rump; feathers of the head as well as the lesser wing-coverts very faintly tinged with metallic-green; the fringe of each feather of the upper tail-coverts is also metallic-green; tail-feathers dark brown, the centre pair greenish-black; primaries and secondaries dark brown narrowly edged with yellowish-olive; throat dusky olive-yellow; rest of underparts bright sulphur-yellow, the breast scarlet; flanks olive-green, under tail-coverts mostly yellow. Bill, legs, and feet deep black.

Bill 17 mm.; wing 47; tail 31; tarsus 14 mm.

Type in the British Museum. ♀ ad. (B.M. Reg. No. 1911. 5.31.444). River Ja. Cameroon, 19 Dec. 1905, G. L. Bates Coll.

Obs. We have now two adult females and five immature specimens in the British Museum.

Immature. The young birds resemble the adult females, but their throats are greyish, the underparts pale not bright sulphur-yellow, and the breast-feathers show only a faint tinge of scarlet.

Mr. Ogilvie-Grant long ago recognised that the immature specimens belonged to an undescribed race, but hesitated to describe the only adult skin in case the bird proved to be an aberration. As we have now received further examples from Mr. Bates which exactly resemble the one alluded to, I see no good in refraining any longer from describing the bird, which I now name after my old friend Mr. W. R. Ogilvie-Grant.

Dr. C. B. Ticehurst showed a series of the young of the Common Indian Sand-Grouse (*Pterocles senegalensis*) [=*P. exustus* auct.] to illustrate the stages of plumage from the chick to adult. He pointed out that the sequence of plumages in Sand-Grouse had been hitherto unrecognised, and he believed that the specimens shown were the only ones of any species which threw light on the subject. The specimens were obtained by himself in Sind, and the stages were clearly

recognisable in the series of both sexes which he exhibited. He made the following remarks :—

(1) The downy chick. Already described and exhibited (*cf.* Bull. B. O. C. vol. xli. pp. 79–80). This represented the protoptile plumage.

(2) First feather or mesoptile plumage. This is the feather-plumage, which pushes out the down and so has the down attached at the ends of the feathers. The sexes are alike and, as obtains in the Game-birds, the head and chin are still downy, while true feathers clothe the rest of the body, and the wings and tail are fairly well grown. General scheme of the upper parts (including minor wing-coverts) pale chestnut to yellowish brown feathers, irregularly mottled and barred with blackish brown, and with greyish-white edges and tips. Throat and breast isabelline with centres and subterminal crescentic markings of dark brown and whitish tips ; belly black tipped with rusty brown. Feathers of the under-parts are more downy in character. Rump, upper tail-coverts, and tail barred pale yellow and black, as are the tertials ; secondaries blackish brown with pale rufous tips ; primaries dark brown, pale and mottled at the tips : central tail-feathers not elongate.

(3) Second feather or hemiptile plumage. These feathers are larger, more compact, and more like adult feathers. The mesoptile plumage is gradully moulted. The head and throat now become covered with true feathers for the first time ; either these feathers do not push out any down and so belong to the hemiptile plumage, or else the down breaks off before the feather shoots from the quill, in which case these feathers would morphologically belong to the mesoptile series. I incline to the latter view, as I have found one feather with down still attached. It is easy to realise that the down on these parts might be lost very early, owing to the brooding by the old birds.

So far as can be ascertained, the whole of the body-feathers, including the minor coverts, are replaced by the hemiptile plumage.

No single specimen would ever show this plumage alone, all were a mixture of this, the preceding, or (and) the adult.

The wings, tail, and major coverts are not replaced in this plumage—that is, they are retained until replaced by those of the adult. If I am right in my idea that the head and neck feathers belong to the mesoptile series, then the hemiptile plumage on these parts is apparently suppressed. The mesoptile head is the only part of the plumage in which the sexes differ: in the male the feathers are yellowish with black bars; in the female the feathers have black central streaks ending in a spot.

Description of hemiptile plumage. Sexes dissimilar.

Male. Upper parts olivaceous with dark and yellowish bars towards the tips, some mantle and scapular feathers darker and with broad yellowish tips. Chin, throat, and ear-coverts to behind eye pale isabelline; breast isabelline with crescentic brown markings; black pectoral line of adult indicated; belly blackish in the middle, rufescent at the sides.

Female. General appearance is like the adult female above. The yellow and black barring is bolder and wider than in the mesoptile dress, and lacks the very large terminal yellow spots of the adult. The breast is like that of the adult, but the dark markings are round or broad crescents, not definite bars with terminal spots and central streaks as in the adult. The breast-feathers are quite different to those in the mesoptile plumage. The belly is apparently black, not rufous and black bars as in the adult. Further specimens, however, are required to work this plumage out in full detail.

(4) *Adult or teleoptile plumage.* Acquired by complete moult.

It will be noticed that these plumages of Sand-Grouse differ from that which obtains in Game-birds, on the one hand, and Pigeons, on the other, in having both the mesoptile and hemiptile plumages well marked. I do not know any other *genus* which shows all these plumages in the course of the first six months of life, unless it be, as Mr. Bonhote has recorded, in *Bubo* and the Game-birds, to which therefore the Sand-Grouse show some relationship.

Mr. Stuart Baker described a new race of Flower-pecker,

Dicæum minullum subflavum, subsp. nov.

Similar to *D. m. concolor*, but with pure white forehead and lores, which are very conspicuous; paler and greener above, and paler, more yellow, and less grey below.

Wing 46–48 mm., culmen 60–105 mm. The bill is as long as it is in *D. m. concolor*, but seems more compressed, though even wider at the base.

Type. ♂, No. 87. 2. 1. 253, B.M. Collection.

Type-locality. Belgaum.

Distribution. Belgaum, N. to Khandala and Mahableswar, and probably Central Provinces.

On behalf of Mr. H. C. Robinson he also described a new race of Blue Flycatcher from Annam :—

In our account ('Ibis,' 1919, p. 444) of the birds obtained in Annam we listed five specimens of a Blue Flycatcher as belonging to *Cyornis rubeculoides rubeculoides*, of which the type-locality must be fixed as N.W. Himalayas, specimens from Simla and Dharmsala agreeing exactly with the figure of the bird in Gould's 'Century of Himalayan Birds,' pl. xxv. fig. 1, which was almost certainly based on Vigors's type of *Phœnicura rubeculoides* (P. Z. S. 1831, p. 35) from some unspecified locality in the Himalayas.

I have compared Kloss's Annam birds with the whole series in the British and Tring Museums, and think that they fairly merit a name.

I therefore characterize the race as

Cyornis rubeculoides klossi, subsp. nov.

Resembles the forms *C. r. dialilæma* * Salvad. and *C. r. chersonesites* † Oberholser, in having the pale colour of the throat running up into a point into the blue of the throat, therein differing from the typical form from the Himalayas. Differs from the first-mentioned races in having the blue of the sides of the head darker and duller blackish blue and the

* Ann. Mus. Civ. Gen. (2) vii. 1889, p. 387 (type from Taho, Karen Hills, Burma).

† Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, xxxiii. 1920, p. 85 (type from Trang, Lower Siam).

breast of a much paler tint, between "light ochraceous buff" and "warm buff" of Ridgway, without any tinge of orange as in the other races. Sides of the belly infuscated, middle of belly and under tail-coverts pure white. "Iris dark, bill black, feet lilac-brown" (*Kloss*).

Female. Not distinguishable with any certainty from those of *C. r. dialilæma* and *C. r. rubeculoides.*

Type. ♂ ad., Dran, South Annam, 18th May, 1918. Collected by C. B. Kloss.

Specimens examined. The type and another adult male, an immature male, and two adult females, all from the type-locality.

Dimensions. ♂ : total length 148 mm. (type), 141 ; wing, 72 (type), 71. ♀ : total length 147, 143 ; wing 69, 67.

The form not improbably occurs in South China. I have seen female specimens from near Swatow, which agree with those from Annam, but it is extremely difficult to separate from these the females of the totally different *S. pallidipes hainana*, which occurs over the same area and which is a migratory bird.

Mr. Stuart Baker, on behalf of Mr. J. D. D. La Touche, described the following new birds from S.E. Yunnan, S.W. China :—

Sphenocercus sphenurus yunnanensis, subsp. nov.

Adult male. Similar to *S. s. sphenurus* Vig., except that the upper surface of the tail is green with a greyish tinge, not yellowish green. The under tail-coverts are primrose-yellow with broad shaft-stripes, and the wing-quills are darker—slaty-black with a brownish tinge. Wing 173 mm., bill (dry) bluish, legs (dry) dark coral-red.

Type. ♂, Lotukow, S.E. Yunnan, 6000 ft. alt., 14th May, 1921.

The Pigeon collected by Owston's Japanese collectors at Mengtsz in July is probably this bird. Mr. Bangs remarks that "the ♀ is a much darker green on the upper parts, and a slightly richer green below than in Indian females." His "♂ agrees fairly well with the two male specimens from Northern India in M. C. Z."

Bubo bubo jarlandi, subsp. nov.

Differs from both European and Chinese examples in being very dark and in having the under surface of the primaries unbarred. Wing (♀) 457 mm.

Type. ♀, not quite adult, Mts. near Mengtsz, S.E. Yunnan, 5000 ft., spring 1921.

Named in honour of the donor, Dr. Jarland, French Colonial Army, late of Mengtsz.

A pair of nestlings were given to me by Dr. Jarland. The larger bird, a female, unfortunately died on the China coast while being taken to Europe, and was made into a skin by me. The other bird reached England safely and is now in the Owl Cages, Zoological Gardens, Regent's Park, London.

Dryobates pygmæus obscurus, subsp. nov.

Near *D. p. kaleensis*, but much smaller, the lower back uniformly barred without any white spot on the inter-scapulary region, the tertiaries barred and spotted and not showing any large white mark on the innermost tertiary as in *D. p. kaleensis* and *D. p. scintilliceps*. The streaks on the underparts are broad, as in *D. p. kaleensis*. Wing (♀) 92 mm.

Type. ♂ ad., Hokow, S.E. Yunnan (300 ft.), 24th March, 1921.

Serilophus lunatus elisabethæ, subsp. nov.

♂ ♀. Differ from Siamese birds in being darker all over, by the darkish grey upper back, and the much darker grey underparts. The bird differs also in the same way from Burmese specimens, which are very red on the upper parts and have a lighter-coloured crown. Wing, ♂ 89 mm., ♀ 90.

Types. ♂, Hokow, S.E. Yunnan (alt. 300 ft.), 22nd March, 1921.

♀, Hokow, S.E. Yunnan (alt. 300 ft.), 29th March, 1921.

Named after my daughter Elizabeth.

Niltava grandis griseiventris, subsp. nov.

Very near *Niltava g. grandis*, but with much less blue on the upper abdomen and much greyer lower abdomen.

Wing-quills much blacker, with less blue edging. Bill rather heavier. Wing 104 mm.

Type. ♂ ad., Loukouchai, S.E. Yunnan (3500 ft.), 7th April, 1921.

A younger male, also from Loukouchai, dated 1st March, 1921, has the under tail-coverts brown.

Anthipes laurentei, sp. nov.

Nearest to *A. poliogenys*, but male differing at a glance from that species by the entire absence of grey on the head and cheeks, by the dull fulvous squamated chin and upper throat, and the white abdomen and under tail-coverts. The flanks are grey, only the breast being rufous. The upper parts resemble those of *A. poliogenys*, except as regards the head and nape, which are almost concolorous with the rest of the upper parts, but are more olive-coloured.

Wing 73 mm. Bill black, legs violet-pink (dry).

The female resembles the male, but has the flanks buffish brown. Wing 73 mm. Upper mandible brown, lower mandible dirty brownish grey, tipped darker. Legs flesh-coloured with a pale violet wash.

Types. ♂, Loukouchai, S.E. Yunnan (3500 ft.), 11 April, 1921.

♀, Mengtsz, S.E. Yunnan (4000 ft.), 9th Oct., 1920.

Named in honour of Mr. E. P. Laurente, of the Mengtsz Customs, to whom I am indebted for his valuable co-operation and for the capture of the larger part of my Yunnan Collection.

Trochalopterum phœniceum wellsi, subsp. nov.

Very near *T. p. ripponi*, from which it differs in being generally darker. The crown and nape are much greener, being nearly concolorous with the back. The tail is less conspicuously barred, the bars being almost obsolete, the crimson and green edging of the wings is more intense, the green being olive-green rather than olive-yellow. There is also less red on the throat. Wing 87 mm. Iris dark crimson, bill brownish-black, legs madder-brown.

Type. ♀ ad., Mengtsz, S.E. Yunnan, 21st Feb., 1921.

Named in honour of Mr. T. Wells, to whom I am much indebted for his kind assistance and advice in the Bird-room of the British Museum.

Pomatorhinus ruficollis laurentei, subsp. nov.

Near *P. r. bakeri*, but much smaller. The bill is uniform dusky pink, the underparts are pale olive with much white down their centre, and the upper parts are olive-brown resembling *P. r. styani*. The tail is of the same olive-brown as the back and obsoletely barred. Wing 75 mm.

Type ♂, Kopaotsûn, S.E. Yunnan (alt. 5500 ft., 250 k. N. of Mengtsz), 15 May, 1921.

Two birds of the year from the same locality have the bill similarly coloured, but have much greyer underparts.

Named in honour of Mr. E. P. Laurente.

Obs. P. r. reconditus Bangs, when compared with *P. r. stridulus*, appears to be a well-marked race. I have six specimens from Hokow, one from Loukouchai, two from Loshuitang, and one from Lotukow, all of which places are within the tropics, but at altitudes varying respectively from 300 ft. to 6000 ft. The specimen from Loukouchai shows no white on the belly, the series from Hokow have all some white on this part, and the single Lotukow specimen is much the same in this respect. A specimen collected by Captain Vaughan, R.N., at Howlik on the West River, agrees also with the Hokow bird, but has in its present condition more black on the culmen.

The breast in *Pomatorhinus r. reconditus* is of a richer and darker chestnut than in *P. r. stridulus* from Fohkien, the chestnut breast showing in strong contrast with the abdomen. The bill is pale yellow with the base of the culmen black, this feature showing practically no variation in my series *.

There would appear to be a third local race of this most

* With reference to Lord Rothschild's remarks on the colour of the bill in Chinese specimens of *Pomatorhinus ruficollis*, I found when dealing with Yunnan birds that no reliance could be placed on the colour of the bill when thoroughly dry, the dark parts increasing in extent and changing the appearance of the bill. Thus the three specimens from the vicinity of Yunnan-fu, which, when fresh, had a plain pinkish bill, have now a pronounced dusky base to the upper mandible!

variable bird in the vicinity of Mengtsz. I have one bird, shot at Milati, the next station (5000 ft.) below Mengtsz, which has the same bill as the birds from lower down the line *P. r. reconditus*, but which is much duller on the breast and which has the apical half of the tail blackish. Without more specimens from this locality, I am unwilling to distinguish it, and I leave the specimen unnamed.

I may mention here that all my Hupali specimens are without doubt *P. styani* Seebohm.

It would thus seem that my experience with Chinese specimens of *P. ruficollis* type is at variance with that of Lord Rothschild. The bird is most difficult to deal with, as climate and latitude, *but not altitude*, seem to have a powerful effect on the colouring of this Scimitar-Bill. There is individual variation, but I should say that the variation is far more local and climatic than individual. I cannot but recognize the following Chinese races of *Pomatorhinus ruficollis* :—

Pom. r. stridulus Swinhoe. S.E. China. *Typ. loc.* Fohkien.
„ „ *reconditus* Phil. & Baup. S.E. Yunnan, Namti Valley.
„ „ *styani* Seebohm. Central China, Yangtse Valley.
„ „ *laurentei*, subsp. nov. S.E. Yunnan, Mts. just south of Yunnan-fu.

There are doubtless other forms which have yet to be determined.

Pellorneum nipalense vividum, subsp. nov.

Nearest to *P. n. intermedium* Sharpe, but much smaller, the upper parts darker everywhere with deeper and brighter chestnut crown, dark chestnut nape, and no white on the hind neck ; the wing-coverts narrowly edged with whitish buff, the primaries from the 2nd to the 6th edged with buffish white, the stripes on the underparts very dark and clearly defined. Wing, ♂ 69 mm., ♀ 65 mm.

Types. ♂ ♀, Hokow, S.E. Yunnan (alt. 300 ft.). 31st March, 1921.

Stachyris nigriceps yunnanensis, subsp. nov.

Differs from birds from Assam, Chin, and Kachin hills (*S. n. coltarti*) and from the Burmese birds in the collection of the British Museum in having the crown of the head of a pure black, not brown as in these birds, and the lores black instead of brown, and in being darker everywhere. Wing 59 mm., tail 55 mm., bill black (in dried state).

Type. ♂, Hokow, S.E. Yunnan, 2nd April, 1921.

Tesia cyaniventris superciliaris, subsp. nov.

Very close to ♀ of *T. c. cyaniventris*, but with a much more pronounced and purer black eye-stripe and lores, and with a short pure grey stripe just behind the eye, between the yellowish supercilium and the black eye-stripe. A bird from Manipur is very similar, but lacks the postorbital grey stripe and is paler below. Wing 51 mm., tail 17, bill from gape 15, tarsus 25. Iris dark brown, upper mandible black, base of lower mandible yellowish, the rest of the lower mandible livid brownish grey, legs dull violet.

Type. ♂ ad., Mengtsz, S.E. Yunnan, 16th March, 1921.

Dr. Lowe made the following remarks on the systematic position of *Pœcile atricapillus pœcilopsis* Sharpe :—

In the Bull. B. O. C. vol. xiii. p. 11 (1902), Bowdler Sharpe described his *Lophophanes pœcilopsis* from W. Yunnan, comparing it, strangely enough, with *Parus rufonuchalis beavani* (Jerdon) from Sikkim. Both Hartert, in his Vögel Palaarkt. Fauna, and Hellmayr, in his "Monograph of the Paridæ" in Wytsman's 'Genera Avium,' follow Sharpe in referring *P. a. pœcilopsis* to the *rufonuchalis* group. With this group Sharpe's *Lophophanes pœcilopsis* has nothing whatever to do. On the contrary, there can be no question that it belongs to either the *P. palustris* or the *P. atricapillus* groups. Since the edges to the wing-feathers are grey and the bird is in other respects an obvious Willow-Tit except for a slightly shiny black vertex, I have referred it to the *P. atricapillus* group. Curiously enough, my attention was drawn to the strange position hitherto occupied by Sharpe's *L. pœcilopsis*, by noting its great resemblance to my *Pœcile*

atricapillus elenæ recently described from N. Italy (*cf.* Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. ser. 9, vol. viii. p. 443, Oct. 1921).

Finally, I might add that it is quite obvious from an examination of the type, co-type, and a fine series, that Sharpe's *L. pœcilopsis* has nothing to do with the genus *Lophophanes,* but should be referred to the genus *Pœcile.*

Dr. Lowe also called attention to the fact that the race of *Oreophilus ruficollis*, which inhabits Chile, differs markedly from the typical race from Patagonia, and also from *O. r. simonsi* recently described by Mr. Chubb in the olive-brown or fulvous-brown coloration of the vertex, hind neck, and mantle, and in the dark fulvous-brown margins to the scapulars, wing-coverts, and secondaries, while the underparts generally are washed with buff as opposed to grey. This race must bear the name of *Oreophilus ruficollis totanirostris* Lesson.

Dr. Lowe also made the following remarks on the status of *Charadrius placidus* Gray :—

In the third volume of his 'Birds of Australia,' p. 114, Mathews, after stating that the Plover known as Hodgson's (*Ægialitis placidus*) would be better placed in the genus *Oxyechus,* goes still further and creates for it a special subgenus *Paroxyechus.*

In reality, Hodgson's Plover is so extremely like a large edition of *Charadrius dubius* that I imagine there could be little hesitation in placing the two birds in the same genus (*Charadrius*).

In point of colour-pattern the two species are nearly exact replicas of one another, their bills are both long and slender (but that of *C. placidus* has only a very slight indication of the orange-coloured base), and the only real difference between the two lies in the relative length of the outer tail-feathers ; the result being that the tail of *C. placidus* is more wedge-shaped and approaching to *Oxyechus vociferus.* To place *C. placidus* in the genus *Oxyechus* for this last reason would be, to my mind, to lose sight of its true genetic relationships, so that its proper position would undoubtedly appear to rest in the genus *Charadrius* (sens. str.).

Mr. P. F. Bunyard gave a fascinating exhibition of the eggs of *Fratercula arctica* mounted over a background of black velvet, and with each egg illuminated by a small electric bulb placed in its interior. By this novel and pretty device he was able to bring out the fact that a distinct and strongly pigmented colour-pattern underlay a superficial coating of calcium carbonate.

GENERAL INDEX.

A General Index to the 'Bulletin' covering volumes 16 to 39 is now ready and can be obtained, price £1, from the publishers, Messrs. H. F. & G. Witherby, 326 High Holborn, W.C.

The cost of production of this important volume has been very considerable and a serious tax upon the funds of the Club; it is hoped therefore that all members will subscribe for a copy, without which their series of the 'Bulletin' will be incomplete.

The next Meeting of the B. O. C. will be held on Wednesday, the 9th of November, 1921, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, the Dinner at 7 p.m. Members intending to dine are requested to inform the Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. L. Bonhote, Park Hill House, Carshalton, Surrey.

[N.B.—Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice *beforehand* to the Editor at Nat. Hist. Museum, South Kensington, and to place in his hands *not later than at the meeting* MSS. for publication in the Bulletin.]

(Signed)

W. L. Sclater,	Percy R. Lowe,	J. L. Bonhote,
Chairman.	*Editor.*	*Sec. & Treas.*

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

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No. CCLXIII.

The two-hundred-and-sixtieth Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48, Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, November 9th, 1921.

Chairman: W. L. Sclater, M.A.

Members present:—E. C. Stuart Baker; D. A. Bannerman; Miss M. G. S. Best; B. J. Bettington; J. L. Bonhote (*Hon. Sec. and Treas.*); S. Boorman; C. D. Borrer; P. F. Bunyard; C. Chubb; Capt. H. L. Cochrane, R.N.; R. H. Deane; Lt.-Col. H. Delmé-Radcliffe; E. V. Earle; A. Ezra; K. Fisher; D. E. W. Gibb; Rev. J. R. Hale; Dr. E. Hartert; Capt. E. G. Herbert; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain; N. B. Kinnear; G. C. Lambert; Dr. H. Langton; Dr. T. G. Longstaff; Dr. G. C. Low; Dr. N. S. Lucas; Capt. W. E. F. Macmillan; Lt.-Col. R. Meinertzhagen; H. Munt; D. W. Musselwhite; T. H. Newman; C. Oldham; C. E. Pearson; A. E. Price; F. R. Ratcliffe; R. H. Read; W. E. Renaut; C. B. Rickett; D. Seth-Smith; Col. R. Sparrow; C. G. Talbot-Ponsonby; Miss E. L. Turner; G. de H. Vaizey; H. M. Wallis; H. F. Witherby.

Guests:—N. Barron; Lt.-Col. H. Brocklebank; J. P.

Chapin ; Capt. Dewhurst ; Lt.-Col. A. Delmé-Radcliffe ; T. W. Herbert ; R. A. Molden ; R. M. Paddison ; G. de H. Vaizey, jun. ; W. Watts ; R. H. White ; W. L. Willett.

A Special Meeting was held at 5.30 p.m. at the Zoological Society's Lecture Room on the 9th November 1921, when a most interesting series of cinematograph pictures of certain phases in the life-history of the Cuckoo was shown by Mr. E. P. Chance.

This film was the result of four years concentrative study of one particular Cuckoo ; and it is no exaggeration to state that such a remarkable piece of field-work has never had its equal. It would be rash to prophesy, but there seems little probability that it will for some time to come, at any rate, be surpassed in completeness or for the deliberate, patient, and carefully planned scheme and scope of its operations.

We congratulate Mr. Chance on a unique piece of scientific field-study.

Mr. W. L. Sclater forwarded the following notes on African Birds :—

Plectropterus gambensis.

An examination of the not very satisfactory series of the Spur-winged Goose in the British Museum inclines me to believe that those from south of the Zambesi can be distinguished from those from the rest of Africa by the greater amount of black on the underparts and by their black under tail-coverts.

Plectropterus niger was founded on a live individual in the Zoological Gardens. It was imported from Cape Town, but was stated to have come originally from Zanzibar—an unlikely locality for such a bird. It probably was a South-African bird.

Sarkidiornis melanotos.

Claude Grant ('Ibis,' 1915, p. 72) states that African examples of this Goose are constantly smaller than those

from India. I have not found this to be the case to any appreciable extent. The wings of nine African males measure 350–390 mm., average 364 ; of four Indian males 370–380 mm., average 372. This seems hardly sufficient ground for separating into two races.

Anas undulata rueppelli.

Neumann (Journ. Ornith. 1904, p. 327) has pointed out that the Abyssinian Yellow-billed Ducks can be distinguished from those of South Africa by the colour of the speculum, which is blue and not green, and by their darker underparts. An examination of the specimen in the British Museum confirms what Neumann states, while birds from Uganda are somewhat intermediate.

Thalassornis leuconotus insularis.

The White-backed Duck of Madagascar has been separated as a distinct species by Richmond (Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xix. p. 678, 1897). It appears to be slightly smaller, but the colour-differences given by Richmond hardly hold good when a good series of African examples are examined. It certainly cannot be regarded as anything but a subspecies.

Asio capensis (Smith).

Sir Andrew Smith, in his essays on African Zoology, in the 2nd series of the 'South African Quarterly Journal,' gave the specific name *capensis* to no fewer than five Owls—i. e., *Noctua* (now *Glaucidium*) *capensis*, p. 313, *Scops* (now *Otus*) *capensis*, p. 314, *Otus* (now *Asio*) *capensis*, p. 316, *Strix* (now *Tyto*) *capensis*, p. 317, and *Bubo capensis*, p. 317.

Owing to the present use of the generic name *Otus* for the Scops Owls, it appears to be necessary under the rules to abandon the name *capensis* for the Marsh-Owl usually known as *Asio capensis* (Smith), as it is preoccupied by *Scops* (now *Otus*) *capensis* (Smith). The only name available for the species appears to be *tingitanus* (*Phasmoptynx capensis* var. *tingitanus* Loche, Explor. Scient. de l'Algérie, Ois. i. p. 99, 1867)—a rather awkward situation ; and, if the

South-African Marsh-Owl is to be regarded as distinct from the Algerian form, a new subspecific name must be given to it. I would propose to name it after Sir Andrew Smith, and the three forms of the Marsh-Owl will then stand as follows :—

Asio tingitanus tingitanus (Loche). North Africa.

Asio tingitanus andrewsmithi Scl., nom. nov. pro *Otus* (now *Asio*) *capensis* Smith. South-east Africa.

Asio tingitanus major (Schl.). Madagascar.

Tyto alba.

The very pale race of the Barn-Owl which is found in southern Arabia and also in Palestine and Muscat is called by Erlanger (J. f. O. 1904, p. 243) *Strix flammea splendens* Brehm ('Naumannia,' 1855, p. 270). Hartert, however (Nov. Zool. 1918, p. 40), states that the type of *Strix splendens* Brehm (Vögelfang, p. 40, 1855) came from Cairo and that it is identical with *Tyto alba alba*.

The pale Arabian race seems therefore to require a new name, and I would propose to call it

Tyto alba erlangeri, subsp. nov.

Type, a female, from Lehej, nr. Aden, in south-west Arabia. Collected by W. Dodson, 24. viii. 99. Now in the British Museum, Reg. no. 1900.8.5.44.

As pointed out by Hartert (Vögel pal. Faun. p. 1038), it is distinguished from *T. a. alba*, which it otherwise closely resembles, by its less-feathered tarsus ; the whole of the tarsus and the toes are bare or covered only by a few scanty hair-like feathers.

There are three examples from near Aden in the Museum collection, as well as others from Muscat, Babylon, and Palestine, all of which appear to be referable to this form.

Genus Dendropicos.

The genus *Dendropicos* was first proposed by Malherbe. The name appears on pp. 316 & 338 of his well-known paper on the classification of the Picidæ published in

the 30th volume of the 'Memoirs of the Academy of Metz.' The name also appears in the 'Revue et Magazin de Zoologie' for 1849, p. 532. According to Sherborne, this latter reference dates from November—the first-named appeared "after May." I am therefore inclined to take this as the original reference.

The type of *Dendropicos* is given by Gray (Cat. Gen. Subgen. Bds. p. 92) as *Picus affinis* Swainson, a Brazilian species now placed in the genus *Dendrobates*. Hargitt (Cat. Bds. Brit. Mus. xviii. p. 293) makes *Dendropicus cardinalis* (now *D. fuscescens*) the type. Neither of these two species are mentioned by Malherbe in his original description; so both these subsequent designations fall. I therefore propose to designate *Dendropicus lafresnayi* Malherbe the type of the genus *Dendropicus*.

Dendropicos obsoletus camerunensis Reichenow, Journ. Ornith. 1918, p. 437. Uam and Bakari, Cameroon.

This name is preoccupied by *Dendropicus camerunensis* Sharpe, Ibis, 1907, p. 443: River Ja, Cameroon—a form belonging to quite another section of the genus; in fact, the *D. obsoletus* group is usually placed by authors in the genus *Yungipicus*. It is necessary, however, to provide a new name for the Cameroon Brownback Woodpecker, and I suggest

Yungipicus obsoletus batesi, nom. nov.

Col. Meinertzhagen made the following remarks on a recently described race of *Phalaropus fulicarius*:—

In the Bull. B. O. C. vol. xlii. p. 8 (1921), Mr. Iredale described the breeding Grey Phalarope of Spitsbergen as *Phalaropus fulicarius jourdaini*, on account of the paler and narrower edgings to the feathers of the upper parts.

The material at Mr. Iredale's disposal was that in the British Museum, of which he says the Palæarctic series was complete and the Nearctic not so extensive. Mr. Iredale had a good series of spring-passage migrants, shot in May,

from the Eastern United States, and a good series of late June and July birds from Spitsbergen. There were odd birds from other localities in the Palæarctic Region, and, with the exception of Alaska, the series is by no means complete.

I have now examined over 114 birds in breeding-plumage comprising good series from Spitsbergen, Iceland, East and West Greenland, Alaska, N.E. Asia, with a few odd birds from Arctic America, Archangel, Japan, Novaya Zembla, etc.

The series I examined included all the material in the British Museum and Tring collections, besides 54 birds sent me by Mr. Schiöler of Copenhagen.

Mr. Iredale only examined one bird from the type-locality. I have seen two, both females. They do not differ in the slightest degree from Spitsbergen birds. But the Spitsbergen birds do differ in the respects mentioned by Mr. Iredale from May birds in very fresh plumage, shot on the East Coast of the United States. This is not to be wondered at, and I consider the race "*jourdaini*" to be a seasonal difference—neither more nor less.

My reasons for this are as follows :—A spring migrant from Japan is moulting into breeding-plumage and the new feathers of the upper parts are as red and as broad as the Massachusetts birds, which have also not yet completed their moult. Spring passage migrants from Baring Island and Archangel, and early June birds from Western Greenland and Iceland show similar coloration, simply because they are in unfaded and unworn plumage. There is no difference which coincides with distribution.

It appears that during June, depending no doubt on the date on which the individual assumed breeding-plumage, the red edgings to the feathers of the upper parts rapidly fade to cream, becoming pale cream in July or late June and almost white in early August. This is apparent throughout the circumpolar range of the species.

This fading is less apparent in a series of 21 West Greenland birds, but these were nearly all obtained in the first half of June when one would not expect much fading or

abrasion. It must also be remembered that birds breeding in West Greenland do so later than do those in East Greenland, whence early June birds show considerable fading in June. Therefore West Greenland birds arrive at their breeding-haunts later than do those in East Greenland, and therefore assume their nuptial plumage later.

A series of over 60 males from all localities, and showing every type of plumage from May to August, exemplify these remarks even better than do the females. But in neither sex is there any geographical variation, the difference being individual and seasonal.

The Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain regretted that Mr. Iredale was not present that evening, but he had himself had an opportunity of examining that afternoon the series of specimens from the British Museum and Tring as well as the 16 obtained in Spitsbergen and 2 from Iceland. It was obvious that all the June–July Spitsbergen and Iceland birds were creamy white on the mantle, while the June Alaska and May Massachussetts birds were warm cinnamon. Some few skins were decidedly paler, *e.g.*, one from Frobisher Bay dated 1861, but even this was not so pale as the Spitsbergen ones. Unfortunately May-killed birds from Europe are lacking in all collections, and unless the warm-cinnamon colour can be shown to exist in European birds, Colonel Meinertzhagen's contention must be regarded as not proven.

Exhibition of eggs of *B. leucopsis*, etc. :—

The Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain brought up for exhibition four clutches of eggs of the Barnacle-Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) and one each of Brent (*B. bernicla bernicla*) and Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*), all obtained by the Oxford Expedition to Spitsbergen in 1921. Each clutch was accompanied by the nest and down. The eggs of the Barnacle-Goose were of especial interest as being the first eggs taken from wild birds ever exhibited in this country ; the only other well-authenticated specimens being the 12 eggs taken by Professor Koenig's expeditions of 1907 and

1908. Mr. Jourdain also described the breeding-habits of the three species, laying especial stress on the remarkable way in which the goslings manage to make their way down from their nesting-sites in the crags to the marshy land at the foot of the valleys below. The downs of the various Geese are notoriously difficult to distinguish, but the feathers found among the down of *B. leucopsis* never seem to show more than a very pale greyish tinge, and are practically all white.

Mr. D. A. Bannerman exhibited and described a new species of Paradise Flycatcher from Lagos, Southern Nigeria, which he proposed to name :—

Tchitrea fagani, sp. nov.

Adult male (winter). General colour above olive-brown, strongly washed with chestnut, becoming rufous on the rump ; tail-feathers brown washed with pale rufous on the inner webs ; scapulars and wing-coverts like the back ; primaries black, secondaries and major-coverts black, edged externally with rufous, the outermost washed with rufous on the inner web. Head, throat, and nape glossy purplish-blue, the blue reaching on to the mantle ; rest of underparts, including the under wing-coverts, bright orange-chestnut of exactly similar tone to the underparts in females of *T. nigriceps*.

Bill 14 mm. ; wing 81 mm. ; tarsus 18 mm.

Adult female is similar in colouring, but is generally a shade duller, particularly on the head and breast.

Obs. The new species is readily distinguished from *T. nigriceps* by the dull russet-brown back, the blue of the head extending on to the mantle, and the paler under surface. The bill is rather larger.

Type. ♂ ad., Brit. Mus. Reg. No. 1920. 3.10.8, Iju Waterworks, near Lagos, S. Nigeria, 20 Dec., 1919. Willoughby P. Lowe Coll.

This Flycatcher is named in affectionate memory of the late Mr. C. E. Fagan, C.B.E., I.S.O., who did so much to further Mr. Lowe's expeditions in West Africa.

Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker proposed the following new names for two Indian birds :—

Alcedo iredalei, nom. nov.

Alcedo grandis, the name given by Blyth to the Great Indian Kingfisher, is unfortunately preoccupied by *Alcedo grandis* of Gmelin, Syst. Nat. i. p. 458 (1788).

Upupa epops orientalis, nom. nov.

Upupa indica of Reichs. Handl. spec. Orn. p. 320 (1851–4) is preoccupied by *Upupa indica* of Latham, Ind. Orn. i. p. 280 (1790), founded on the Blue Promerops (Latham, Syn. Supp. i. p. 124).

Mr. Stuart Baker also described the following new race of Laughing-Thrush :—

Garrulax albogularis whistleri.

Similar to *Garrulax albogularis albogularis* Gould, of which the type-locality is Nepal, but larger and much paler above, with a greyer, less rufous tint. Below also it is paler and duller.

Wing from 132 (very abraded) to 144 mm.; average 139 mm.

Type-locality. Simla.

Type. In the British Museum, ♂, Simla, 3. xi. 80; 86.10.1.3841.

Distribution. Himalayas from Hazara to Garhwal.

Named after Mr. H. Whistler of the Indian Police, who has done much excellent field-work in N.W. India.

Mr. J. D. D. La Touche communicated the following descriptions of new birds from S.E. Yunnan, S.W. China:—

Heteroxenicus cruralis laurentei, subsp. nov.

Nearest to *H. c. cruralis* from the Shan States, but with almost uniform blue belly, only a shade of grey, and larger than the average Shan States bird. It differs from Sikkim birds in having a much larger wing than these and by its conspicuously heavier bill. Sikkim birds (wing 67 mm.) also show a good deal of grey on the abdomen.

Wing 71 mm.; tail 50 mm.; culmen 14 mm.; tarsus 31 mm. Bill black, legs very dark purplish-brown.

Type. ♂ ad., Mengtz, S.E. Yunnan (4000 ft.), 31 October, 1920.

Minla ignotincta mariæ, subsp. nov.

♂. Differs from *M. ignotincta* Hodgs. in having the back olive-green, not dark brown, in having the primaries bordered with crimson-lake, and in the underparts, which are brilliant yellow, flecked with pale olive. Wing 0·70 mm.

♀. Has the underparts pale yellow and the wings bordered with the same. Wing 68 mm.

Types. ♂, Milati, S.E. Yunnan, 13th January, 1921.
♀ ad., Loukouchai, S.E. Yunnan, 4th March, 1921.

Named after my daughter Mary.

Obs. Minla jerdoni Verr., according to Lord Rothschild, is inseparable from *M. ignotincta*, and it would appear that Bangs and Phillips wrongly identified their examples of this bird with the former.

Merula protomomelæna yunnanensis, subsp. n.

♂. Differs from the typical form in having the black head and neck sharply separated from the slate-coloured back. Iris dark brown, rim of eyelid and bill bright yellow (ad.), yellow tipped with black (younger birds), upper mandible reddish-brown with lower mandible dull yellowish with dark point (young bird), legs fleshy yellow, dull dark yellowish-flesh, yellowish-red, and dull Naples yellow.

Wing 123–140 mm.

♀. Is of a much darker olive-brown on the upper parts.

Iris dark brown, bill dull yellowish, base of upper mandible blackish (ad.), dull greenish-brown, gape yellow, legs Naples yellow (ad. and jun.), rim of eyelid dull yellowish.

Wing 114–120 mm.

Types. ♂, Milati, S.E. Yunnan (5000 ft.), 19 Jan., 1921.
♀, „ „ „ 14 „

Urosphena laurentei, sp. nov.

Nearest to *U. squamiceps* Swinhoe, but with shorter bill and wing, longer tail, and no squamation on the head. Upper parts plain umber-brown, the upper surface of the tail much darker brown, contrasting with the shade of brown

of the back. General colour of the underparts white, tinged with buff on the centre of the breast and on the abdomen, sides of breast and flanks olive-brown, under tail-coverts pale buff.

Iris dark brown, upper mandible dark brown, lower mandible and edge of base of upper mandible flesh, legs pale pink.

Wing 45 mm.; tail 33 mm.; culmen 11 mm.; tarsus ·21 mm.

Type. ♀, Poutoutsing, S.E. Yunnan (2700 ft.), 12 April, 1921.

Suthora webbiana yunnanensis, subsp. nov.

Near *S. w. alphonsiana* of Kweichow, but with the sides of the head and neck never pale grey, but dull greyish vinous or dull greyish washed with vinous. Bill of birds in my collection much larger. Five examples of *Suthora* in B.M. collection from Yunnan province (Styan collection) are very similar and without doubt belong to this Yunnan form, but have the small bill of the Kweichow bird.

Wing, ♂ & ♀, 52 mm.

Types. ♂, Kopaotsun, S.E. Yunnan (5500 ft.), 13 May, 1921.

♀, Kopaotsun, S.E. Yunnan (5500 ft.), 15 May, 1921.

Sitta europæa obscura, subsp. nov.

Nearest to *S. e. nagaensis*, but with much darker dirty brownish-grey underparts. It also approximates to *S. e. montium*, but, unlike that form, it has no pure grey on the flanks, the underparts being *uniform*, and there is no seasonal change of plumage. The bill is stouter than in *S. montium*, but less so than in *S. nagaensis*.

♂. Wings 78–80 mm. ♀. Wing 76–78 mm.

Bill blackish, base of lower mandibles bluish, legs reddish-brown.

Type. ♂, Milati, S.E. Yunnan (5000 ft.), 9 Jan., 1921.

Obs. This is certainly the same bird as the one from Loukouchai identified by Bangs and Phillips as *Sitta europæa montium*.

Zosterops aureiventer joannæ, subsp. nov.

Near *Z. aureiventer* Hume, but the yellow stripe down the centre of the underparts joins the yellow throat and is often only slight in extent in some males and is absent altogether

in females. The upper parts are of a golden green and the flanks are a darkish pink-grey. The white ring round the eye is narrower and the tail is longer.

Iris hazel, upper mandible blackish, lower mandible bluish, legs plumbeous.

♂. Wing 53 mm. ; tail 39 mm.

♀. „ 51 „ „ 38 „

Types. ♂, Mengtz, S.E. Yunnan (4000 ft.), 13 Nov., 1920.

♀, „ „ „ 23 Sept., 1920.

Named after my daughter Jeanne.

This is most probably the bird called *Z. palpebrosa mussoti* Oustalet by Bangs and Phillips.

Zosterops erythropleurus melanorhyncha, subsp. nov.

Similar to typical *Z. erythropleurus* Swinhoe, save that the bill is considerably larger and differently coloured. Upper mandible and point of lower mandible dark brown, base of lower mandible violet-plumbeous. Legs greenish-plumbeous.

Wing 59 mm.

Type. ♀, Mengtz, S.E. Yunnan (4000 ft.), 22 Oct., 1920.

In true *Z. erythropleurus* the bill is small and flesh-coloured with darker point. David and Oustalet, nevertheless, give the bill as brownish above and bluish underneath, but state that it does not become black in drying. The example described above has now the upper mandible and most ofthe lower one blackish.

Arachnothera longirostris sordida, subsp. nov.

Nearest to Assam examples of *A. longirostris*, which it resembles by its dull grey throat and breast, but differs from it in its conspicuously shorter bill and dull whitish-grey lores. It differs from Siamese birds by the dull-coloured lores, its grey throat and breast, and very short bill.

Wing 63 mm. ; culmen 32 mm.

Type. ♂, Hokow, S.E. Yunnan (300 ft.), 31 Mar., 1921.

Erratum.—Count Nils Gyldenstolpe writes to point out that, through an error on the part of Mr. Stuart Baker, his description of *Molpastes atricapillus klossi* was attributed to Mr. H. C. Robinson (*cf.* Bull. B. O. C. xli. p. 12, 1920).

THE TENTH OOLOGICAL DINNER.

THE TENTH OOLOGICAL DINNER was held at Pagani's Restaurant on Wednesday, 14th September, 1921. Lord ROTHSCHILD took the Chair at 7 o'clock, fifty members and their guests being present. The principal feature of the evening was an Exhibition of the eggs of the Alcidæ, especially Guillemots ; also of eggs of game-birds.

The CHAIRMAN announced that, owing to the success which had attended these gatherings, it had been decided by the Committee to hold *three* dinners in 1922, particulars of which will be duly circulated.

Mr. MASSEY exhibited three eggs of the Great Auk with the following histories :—

(*a*) One of four eggs sold at Stevens', 14th July, 1865, from the Royal College of Surgeons.

(*b*) An egg acquired at a sale near Rochester, and sold with another damaged egg for 36*s*., but which fetched £273 at Stevens', 24th April, 1894. These specimens were originally the property of Mr. Hulkes, a brewer, who had them from his grandfather.

(*c*) This egg in the year 1855 was in the possession of the Baron Henri de Vèye. It passed through several ownerships, and finally sold at Stevens' for £252, 29th Oct., 1901, from the collection of the late Baron Charles d'Hamonville.

Lord Rothschild exhibited :—

2 eggs of the Great Auk. 1 Champley Coll.
1 Count Roedern Coll.
2 eggs of *Synthliborhamphus antiquus*. Kurile Is.
2 „ „ *wumizusume*. Japan.
(These eggs are unlike all eggs of European *Alcæ*, resembling more the eggs of certain Sandgrouse.)
2 clutches *Tetraogallus tibetanus tibetanus*. Chambi Valley, Tibet.
1 clutch of 7 *Tetraogallus caucasicus*. Caucasus.
A series of varieties of *Tetraogallus himalayensis*. Turkestan.
133 eggs of the following *Alectoris* (= *Caccabis*) :—
Alectoris barbara barbara. Marocco and Northern Algeria.
„ „ *spatzi*. Algerian Sahara.
„ „ *koenigi*. Tenerife.
„ *græca græca*. Parnassus, in Greece.
„ „ *cypriotes*. Cyprus, Crete, Jerusalem.
„ „ *falki*. Turkestan.
„ „ *sinaica*. Jericho.
„ „ *kirthari*. Sindh.
„ *rufa rufa*. England and France.
„ „ *corsa*. Corsica.
„ „ *intercedens*. Southern Spain.
1 clutch of 6 *Ammoperdix heyi heyi*. Jericho.
1 „ „ „ *griseogularis*. Kohat.
80 eggs of the following Quails :
Varieties of *Coturnix coturnix coturnix*. Europe.
2 eggs of „ „ *japonica*. Transbaikalia.
4 „ „ „ *africana*. Madagascar.
Series of *Coturnix coromandelica*. India.
„ „ *delagorguei*. E. Africa.
2 eggs of *Coturnix novæzealandiæ*. N. Zealand, extinct.
1 egg of *Synoicus ypsilophorus ypsilophorus*. Tasmania.
2 eggs of „ „ *australis*. S. Queensland.
1 egg of „ *plumbeus*. New Guinea.

Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker exhibited some Oriental Game-Birds' eggs and made the following remarks :—

The first exhibit contains eggs of the Bustards *Sypheotis bengalensis* (or, as it should more properly be called, *S. indica*), *Sypheotis aurita*, and the Houbara *H. undulata macqueeni*. Of the first-named there is no other series in existence, and even odd pairs are not often met with ; the bird never lays more than two, and those shown embrace all the known range of variation. The Small Floriken or Likh is better known and many collectors possess the eggs. Of the Houbara, I suppose the series shown is only surpassed by that of Lord Rothschild.

The next box contains the eggs of various species of *Tragopan* ; these are all of the greatest rarity, except for numerous odd eggs laid in captivity. Those shown are all eggs laid by wild birds, except the small one in the centre. This was laid in the Zoo, but is undoubtedly only the egg of one of the Silver-Pheasants.

The box of *Lophophorus* eggs contain only those of *L. impejanus*, not a very rare egg. The two of *Tetraogallus* show the eggs of *T. tibetanus*, of which my collectors have sent me a fair series and others were given me by Major F. M. Bailey, Capt. Kennedy, and Capt. Steen. The larger eggs are those of *T. himalayensis*. The natives all assert that both birds lay from 7 to 10 eggs, but so far I have never seen clutches as large as these.

I also show a single egg of *Rollulus roulroul*, one of a clutch of eggs laid in captivity in the aviaries of Mr. C. M. Inglis, and a unique clutch of eggs of *Microperdix manipurensis*.

The three boxes of *Coturnix communis* show a series of the Common Quail and of the two near relations *C. c. japonica* and *Coturnix coromandelica*. The latter is a good species ; for both this bird, the Indian Rain-Quail, and the Common Quail breed in the same area.

The last two boxes show series of eggs of the Bustard-Quails, four races of *Turnix javanica*. These, of course, are closely related to the Andalusian Quail.

Mr. E. T. Crosoer exhibited :—

(*a*) Self-taken series of Common Guillemot, Razorbill, and Puffin from Pembroke and Cornish coasts, including some uncommon phases.

(*b*) Three sets of Common Quail from Ireland: one set very pale ground-colour, with black pepper markings; another typically blotched; and the third set a heavily smeared type.

(*c*) Clutches of Common Ptarmigan and Rock-Ptarmigan; the latter, from Lapland, was kindly lent for exhibition by Mr. Marsh of Chelmsford.

Captain Cochrane, R.N., exhibited :—

(*a*) Clutch of 9 Stubble-Quail (*Coturnix pectoralis*) from Victoria, Australia, 15 Oct., 1919.

(*b*) Set of 4 Painted Quail (*Turnix varia*) from Victoria, 22 Oct., 1918.

Mr. D. W. Musselwhite showed three very fine sets of Red Grouse, including a clutch of 4 from the Orkneys with widely distributed blotches leaving most of the ground-colour visible.

Mr. R. H. Read showed a case containing 8 models of eggs of the Great Auk made by himself. The following eggs were also exhibited :—

(*a*) Series of Guillemot eggs, each one accompanied by an egg of a different species breeding in the same neighbourhood and closely resembling the egg of the Guillemot.

(*b*) Set of 6 white eggs of the Red Grouse.

(*c*) Pigmy eggs of Common and Red-legged Partridge, Capercaillie, Guillemot, Razorbill, Fulmar, Gannet, &c.

Mr. Stoney exhibited a magnificent series of Guillemot and Razorbill eggs taken by himself in Ireland. Also a set of 4 Ringed Plover from Donegal, very heavily marked.

Dr. Percy Rendall exhibited two sets of Capercaillie eggs from Inverness-shire, with the feathers with which the nests were lined. Also six clutches of the Woodcock, including some dark and heavily marked sets, all from Cumberland.

Mr. Deane showed an unmarked egg, believed to be that of a Common Snipe.

Mr. C. J. Carroll exhibited a large and varied series of Guillemot and Razorbill eggs, all taken by himself on the Irish coast. One of the Guillemot eggs was of a uniform holly-green colour, a very rare phase.

Mr. Carroll also showed a clutch of Blackcap's eggs, taken by himself in Co. Kildare in May 1921, of the bright salmon-pink form. This is believed to be the first erythristic set ever recorded from Ireland.

The Rev. James R. Hale exhibited a small series of Guillemots' eggs, two of which are specially worthy of mention :—

(*a*) Taken by Captain T. P. Aldworth at St. David's Head, S. Wales : bright lemon-yellow ground-colour, with brownish-black markings. This specimen is believed to be unique.

(*b*) A very perfect example of the "Crow" type, taken by the exhibitor in 1898 at Portmagee, Co. Kerry.

Dr. Herbert Langton showed a small but select series of the Common and Black Guillemots and Razorbill.

The Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain exhibited a small series of Brunnich's Guillemot (*Uria l. lomvia*) from Bear Island, which showed a wide range of variation. These eggs had been most carefully identified *in situ* by Mr. Jourdain himself, who remarked that if a sufficiently large series of this species could be examined the extent of variation would probably rival that of the Common Guillemot. A few eggs of the Ringed variety of the Common Guillemot from the same locality were also shown.

Mr. Percy F. Bunyard exhibited the following eggs from his collection :—

Razorbill (*Alca torda*). A series of 214 British eggs, showing remarkable variation, the extreme forms being represented by heavily pigmented eggs, in some cases almost entirely concealing the ground-colour. In others the whole of the large ends were completely covered. The modified forms were represented by eggs almost entirely without markings, varying in ground-colour from bluish-white to reddish-brown—the type-eggs with white ground showing considerable variation in the arrangement of the markings, heavily and slightly blotched and veined eggs predominating.

A rare variety with purplish-red ground-colour was also shown.

Great Auk (*Alca impennis*). An enlarged photograph of nine eggs representing the Champley series before being dispersed, unfortunately only three of which now remain in this country. This photograph is unique, as it is unlikely that nine eggs will ever again be brought together.

Common Guillemot (*Uria troille*). A series of 420 eggs, mostly from Yorkshire, arranged in twelve drawers in their various forms. These were represented by veined and spotted eggs, as were also the greenish-blue ground-type eggs. Extreme forms in which the vein-markings are evenly distributed over the whole surface, and those with the surface almost wholly concealed by heavily pigmented blotches or suffused markings were well represented; also self-coloured eggs of blue, bluish-green, and pure white.

Brunnich's Guillemot (*Uria lomvia*). A series of eight eggs from Spitsbergen. These do not differ from those of *U. troille*; they do not, however (judging from the material available for comparison), appear to show so much variation, or run into such extreme forms.

Black Guillemot (*Uria grylle*). A series of 30 clutches from Orkney, etc., showing three distinct ground-colours, *i. e.*, buff, greenish, and white. Eggs showing exceptionally large blotches and underlying markings were well represented.

Little Auk (*Alle alle*). Nine typical eggs from Spitsbergen and Davis Straits. Unlike the eggs of *F. arctica* the markings (if any) are wholly superficial—a characteristic of these eggs. Some have distinct blotches, others were vein-marked at the large end.

Mr. Bunyard also exhibited a series of 42 eggs of the Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*), and made the following remarks :—

In nearly all collections I find the eggs of this species badly represented, generally by two or three very indifferent specimens almost unmarked, or by a few eggs specially selected for their markings, neither of which convey any idea as to the great variation through which they run. For beauty and delicacy of coloration there are few eggs to equal them ; the ground-colour varies considerably, showing white, ochraceous, buff, cream, greyish-white, white tinged with mauve, and pale pink; this last shade unfortunately is not fast and soon fades away.

The colour of the superficial markings varies from brownish-black to palest brown; the underlying markings are various shades of grey, sometimes distinctly tinged with mauve, according to the depth at which they lie.

A very pronounced variation is found in the form and arrangement of the markings, the spotted and blotched eggs predominating. Some are heavily vein-marked forming zones at or near the broader half; these are sometimes interspersed with small spots. The zones are invariably composed of very short vein-marks ; others have short vein-markings evenly distributed over the whole surface.

There is very little variation in shape, broad-pointed ovals predominating. I find, however, that those I took in the Faroes (of which I exhibit four) are very distinctive. They are longer and narrower, as the following measurements prove—66·3 × 41·7 mm., 63·2 × 40 mm., 64 × 41 mm., 63·2 × 42 mm.; average 10 Brit. eggs 61·4 × 43·2 mm. (Bunyard's). The markings in every case are evenly distributed—this and the shape appear to be constant.

A closer study of the eggs reveals many interesting points; they appear to be in the transition-stage, *i. e.* there is a distinct tendency for them to become more conspicuously surface-marked. This theory is based on the following experience. In 1919 these eggs were collected in large quantities for food, and I had the opportunity to examine some hundreds from Barra. There was scarcely an egg among them that was not well marked. I was so struck by this interesting fact that I got into communication with the collectors who had gathered Puffins' eggs for many years, and I found they had already noticed these well-marked eggs, mentioning that the eggs they collected 30–35 years ago were nearly all unmarked. Many of the eggs figured in different works are well marked. It is probable, however, that these were selected for the purpose, and are not typical of the eggs of that time. My own experience is that they were then mostly white and almost unmarked, or rather the markings were much deeper, *i. e.* covered by a thicker lime layer. Puffins' eggs are nearly all well marked; this can be proved by holding the eggs to a strong light and looking through the blow-hole, or by scraping away the outer lime layer until the pigment is reached. As an illustration I have treated in this way half of one of the eggs exhibited in a longitudinal direction, varnishing this part to bring out the density of the pigment; the other half is left normal to show the deep-lying markings.

Among those exhibited will be found one egg with large superficial markings on the large end, the underlying markings being almost absent. Another has a large superficial mark measuring 20 × 15 mm. A third egg from the Farnes is heavily peat-stained dark brown.

Many eggs show a distinct tendency towards erythrism; the buff and cream ground eggs when held to strong light show through reddish; the type-eggs have a brownish inner lime layer.

Similar rudimentary characteristics may be found in the eggs of the Barred Warbler (*S. nisoria*), certain forms of Nightjar (*C. europæus*), Griffon-Vulture (*G. fulvus*), and the

genus *Circus*, etc., and abnormally in the eggs of many species.

To further demonstrate the fact that the eggs of the Puffin are usually heavily marked, Mr. Bunyard exhibited six eggs electrically illuminated from inside, with the result that the markings were clearly visible.

The Rev. Canon DALISON, in proposing a vote of thanks to the exhibitors, called attention to the fact that four keen Oologists had come all the way from Ireland on purpose to contribute to the magnificent display of eggs which were on view. Special thanks were also due to those gentlemen who had brought the five eggs of the Great Auk; and to Mr. Bunyard, who had brought some hundreds of specimens from Croydon, and had spent the entire day perfecting the lighting arrangements for the evening.

Mr. F. J. LUPTON exhibited some picked specimens from his well-known series of Guillemot eggs taken at Flamborough.

GENERAL INDEX.

A General Index to the 'Bulletin' covering volumes 16 to 39 is now ready and can be obtained, price £1, from the publishers, Messrs. H. F. & G. Witherby, 326 High Holborn, W.C.

The cost of production of this important volume has been very considerable and a serious tax upon the funds of the Club; it is hoped therefore that all members will subscribe for a copy, without which their series of the 'Bulletin' will be incomplete.

The next Meeting of the B. O. C. will be held on Wednesday, the 14th of December, 1921, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, the Dinner at 7 p.m. Members intending to dine are requested to inform the Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. L. Bonhote, Park Hill House, Carshalton, Surrey.

[N.B.—Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice *beforehand* to the Editor at Nat. Hist. Museum, South Kensington, and to place in his hands *not later than at the meeting* MSS. for publication in the Bulletin.]

(Signed)

W. L. Sclater,	Percy R. Lowe,	J. L. Bonhote,
Chairman.	*Editor.*	*Sec. & Treas.*

Smithsonian Institution
JAN 24 1922
National Museum.

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCLXIV.

The two-hundred-and-sixty-first Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48, Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, December 14th, 1921.

Chairman: W. L. Sclater, M.A.

Members present:—E. C. Stuart Baker; G. K. Baynes; J. L. Bonhote (*Hon. Sec. and Treas.*); C. D. Borrer; C. Chubb; W. Eagle Clarke; R. H. Deane; H. J. Elwes; A. K. Evans; K. Fisher; Rev. J. R. Hale; Dr. E. Hartert; T. Iredale; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain; N. B. Kinnear; C. Boden Kloss; G. C. Lambert; J. D. La Touche; Lt.-Col. H. A. F. Magrath; G. M. Mathews; E. G. B. Meade-Waldo; Lt.-Col. R. Meinertzhagen; H. Munt; D. W. Musselwhite; A. E. Price; F. R. Ratcliffe; W. E. Renaut; C. B. Rickett; Lord Rothschild; D. Seth-Smith; Major A. G. L. Sladen; Dr. N. F. Ticehurst; H. M. Wallis; H. F. Witherby.

Guests:—E. Gilroy; C. A. Gladstone; A. S. Le Souef; G. A. Ricardo.

Mr. W. L. Sclater communicated the following notes on African Birds (no. 2) :—

Genus Ortholophus.

This genus was proposed by Ogilvie-Grant (Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. xvii. p. 424, 1892), but no type was designated.

There is some confusion over the taxonomy of the species of the genus which has been straightened out by Finsch (Notes Leyden Mus. xxiii. pp. 195–205, 1903). I would propose to designate as the type of the genus *Ortholophus cassini* Finsch, which appears in the Catalogue under the name *O. albocristatus*, but which is not the bird described under that name by Cassin.

Bycanistes sharpii Elliot and B. leucopygius Dubois.

There has been a good deal of controversy in regard to these two forms. Dubois (Ann. Mus. Congo, i. fasc. 1, 1905, pp. 6–9 ; also Bull. Soc. Zool. France, xxxiv. 1909, p. 129) has written at considerable length on the matter. He identifies *B. sharpii* Elliot as a young male of *B. fistulator*, in which there can be no doubt he was quite in the wrong. *B. fistulator* is easily distinguished from *B. sharpii* by its tail pattern. In the former the lateral tail-feathers have the terminal third or quarter white, the basal portion black throughout ; in the latter the tail-feathers, except the two central ones, are white, though there is a little black at the base of some of them.

With regard to the distinction of *B. sharpii* and *B. leucopygius* I find that Gaboon and Angola birds have no trace of a casque, have traces of black of varying amount at the bases of the lateral tail-feathers, especially the inner ones next the central black ones, and the five outer primaries are usually black throughout. In the birds from the middle Congo and the Welle there is, at any rate, a small casque ; in the males the lateral tail-feathers are white throughout

and the outer primaries show a considerable amount of white, though there is a good deal of individual variation. I should propose to regard the Middle Congo bird as a subspecies of the Gaboon bird.

As to the nomenclature, the Congo and Welle bird was named by Dubois in 1884 *B. leucopygius*, but this name is unfortunately preoccupied by *B. leucopygus* Giebel, 1876, which appears to be without doubt a synonym of *B. sharpii* and which undoubtedly invalidates Dubois's name.

I would propose therefore to rename the Congo-Welle bird after M. Dubois, and the following will be the synonymy :—

Bycanistes sharpii sharpii (Elliot).

Buceros sharpii Elliot, Ibis, 1873, p. 177 : Angola.

Buceros leucopygus Giebel, Zs. Gesammt. Naturw. xiii. 1876, p. 73 : Gaboon.

Distribution. Northern Angola to Gaboon and the western part of southern Cameroon.

Bycanistes sharpii duboisi, nom. nov.

Buceros leucopygius Dubois, Bull. Mus. Belge, iii. 1884, p. 202, pl. x. fig. 1 : Nyam-Nyam, Upper Welle distr.

Distribution. The middle reaches of the Congo to eastern Cameroon (River Ja) and the Welle.

Lophoceros camurus.

A glance at the series of this Hornbill in the British Museum shows that those from Upper Guinea can be easily distinguished from those from Gaboon and the interior of the Belgian Congo by their darker upper parts, and especially by the colour of the top of the head, which is considerably darker than the back ; while in the Gaboon bird the crown and back are of the same shade, and do not contrast with one another.

The following is the nomenclature and distribution :—

Lophoceros camurus camurus.

Tockus camurus Cassin, Proc. Acad. Philad. viii. p. 319 (1857) : Cape Lopez.

Seventeen examples examined in B.M. from Gaboon, Cameroon, Ituri, and Welle districts of Belgian Congo.

Lophoceros camurus pulchrirostris.

Buceros pulchrirostris Schlegel, Ned. Tijd. Dierk. i. p. 74, pl. iv. (1863) : St. George d'Elmina, Gold Coast.

Eight examples in B.M. examined from Liberia and the Gold Coast.

Corythornis cristata.

The Malachite Kingfisher, inhabiting the Island of Principe in the Gulf of Guinea, is remarkably distinct from that of the mainland. This last-named is now known as *Corythornis cristata cristata* Pallas (nec Linn.) and was formerly known as *C. cyanostigma* (see C. Grant, 'Ibis,' 1915, p. 263). The Prince's Island bird is called *C. galerita* (Müll.) in the B.M. Catalogue (xvii. p. 166), and the synonyms given are *Alcedo cæruleocephala* Gmel. and *A. cyanocephala* Shaw. Both these and Müller's name are all founded on Daubenton's plate (Pl. Enlum. no. 356, fig. 1).

An examination of this plate shows that it undoubtedly represents the typical Malachite Kingfisher and not the Prince's Island bird, and Buffon's letterpress informs us that the bird had been obtained from Senegal and Madagascar. It does not therefore seem advisable to use any of these names for the Prince's Island form.

There is one other name in the synonymy of *Corythornis galerita* of the Catalogue. This is *Alcedo nais* of Kaup (Fam. Eisv. p. 13) which, however, is a *nomen nudum*, though the type (which is preserved in the Brit. Mus. Collection) is said to come from Gaboon. The first description is that of Hartlaub (Syst. Orn. Westafr. p. 37, 1857),

founded on a bird also said to be from Gaboon, and this fits the Prince's Island bird very well.

I would therefore propose to call the Prince's Island bird

Corythornis cristata nais Hartlaub.

The following is a brief synopsis of the forms of the genus :—

CORYTHORNIS CRISTATA CRISTATA.

Alcedo cristata Pallas in Vroeg, Cat. Adumb. no. 55, p. 1 (1764) : Cape of Good Hope.

Synonyms are *Alcedo galerita* P. L. S. Müll., *Alcedo cæruleocephala* Gmel., *Alcedo cyanocephala* Shaw, *Alcedo cyanostigma* Rüpp.

Distribution. The whole of Africa south of the Sahara.

CORYTHORNIS CRISTATA NAIS.

Alcedo nais Kaup, Fam. Eisv. p. 12 (1848) (*nom. nud.*) ; Hartlaub, Syst. Orn. Westafr. p. 37 (1857) : Gaboon ?, more probably Prince's Island.

Distribution. Prince's Island. Possibly Gaboon and Loanda.

CORYTHORNIS VINTSIOIDES.

Alcedo vintsioides Eydoux et Gervais, Voy. La Favourite Ois. in Mag. Zool. 1836, p. 30, pl. 74 : Madagascar.

Synonym *Alcedo cristata* Linn. 1766 (nec Pall., 1764).

Distribution. Madagascar.

Mr. H. F. WITHERBY exhibited some birds from a collection he had made in October 1921 in the region of the Picos de Europa (Provinces of Leon, Asturias, and Santander), North Spain. Comparing some of the birds of this region—the Cantabrian Mountains—with those of Portugal and the Pyrenees, Mr. Witherby pointed out that, while the Goldfinch and Coal-Tit were of the same geographical race as the Portuguese (viz. *Carduelis c. weigoldi*

and *Parus a. vieirae*), the Blue Tit, Crested Tit, and Nuthatch were unlike the Portuguese forms and like those found in the Pyrenees and northwards (viz. *Parus c. cæruleus*, *P. c. mitratus*, and *Sitta e. cæsia*).

The Long-tailed Tit, of which he had collected a good series, he had compared with series from Portugal as well as the Pyrenees, and considered them to be all the same. These birds must, therefore, be called *Ægithalos c. taiti*, and *Æ. c. pyrenaicus* must be considered as a synonym. In this Dr. Hartert has concurred.

The distribution of subspecies in the Peninsula was very interesting and, so far as our present knowledge went, very puzzling. One of the most interesting problems was presented by the Dipper. Mr. Witherby had obtained a large series, and these differed in no way from the Scandinavian *Cinclus c. cinclus*. Yet, in the Pyrenees there was a similar but distinctly paler form (*C. c. pyrenaicus*), while in France, Germany, and Belgium there was a distinct form with much more chestnut on the belly (*C. c. aquaticus*).

This re-occurrence of *Cinclus c. cinclus* in north Spain (probably also with Portugal) was made more extraordinary by the fact that in south Spain, judging by the few specimens available, a form occurred which was indistinguishable from *C. c. aquaticus*.

Mr. Witherby had found the Marsh-Tit fairly common and collected a good series. With the exception of one young bird collected by himself in 1919 in the Spanish Pyrenees, no Marsh-Tit from Spain had been available hitherto for examination.

Comparison of this series shows that they were indistinguishable from *Parus palustris communis*, and Mr. Witherby was of opinion that *Parus p. longirostris* was not separable from that form when a good series was compared.

The Middle-spotted Woodpecker, not known from any other part of Spain, nor indeed nearer than the Alps, was found to be fairly common, and a series of eight was collected. As these differed from other forms of the bird, Mr. Witherby proposed to distinguish them as follows :—

Dryobates medius lilianæ, subsp. nov.

Similar to *D. m. medius,* but black of upper-parts and to a less extent of wings very intense with no brown tinge; black bars on outer tail-feathers more regular and broader, and thus showing less white than in *D. m. medius*; crimson of head of male rather brighter than in *D. m. medius*, but not so brilliant as in *D. m. splendidior*; yellow of breast rather stronger than in *D. m. medius* and throat tinged with yellow; axillaries very pale yellow, not pure white; bill on the whole larger and wider than in *D. m. medius*, but some examples of the latter are as large. Measurements: 4 ♂, wing 126–9 mm.; bill 27–27·5; tail 78–81; tarsus 21–22. 4 ♀, wing 124–7; bill 24·5–26·5; tail 77–80; tarsus 20–23.

Type. ♂, Potes (Santander), N.W. Spain, Oct. 11, 1921.

Named in honour of my wife, who has always helped me greatly in collecting, and was particularly successful in obtaining these Woodpeckers.

Dr. Ernst Hartert exhibited some new African birds. which he described as follows:—

Cinnyris loveridgei, sp. nov.

Male adult. Upperside metallic green, tail-coverts bluish-purple; wings blackish-brown with a faint purplish tinge on the inner webs of quills, outer webs of primaries with very narrow, inner with wider olive-yellow outer edges; lesser and median upper wing-coverts like upper-side, longest like primaries; rectrices deep blackish steel-blue; sides of head and throat like back, separated from the breast by a purple band; breast brownish-red; abdomen and under tail-coverts brownish-yellow; tufts on sides of breast deep chrome-yellow; under wing-coverts whitish-grey with yellow wash. Wing 57; tail 41; outer tail-feathers 35; bill from forehead 25; tarsus 20 mm.

Hab. Uluguru Mts., Tanganyika Territory.

Type. In the Tring Museum, 24. v. 1921, collected by Arthur Loveridge, after whom the species is named. One male only examined.

(This new species has no near ally; the nearest is apparently *C. regius* Rchw., but the latter has a very much shorter bill and more graduated tail, while the breast, middle of abdomen, and under tail-coverts are bright red, the sides of the abdomen pure bright yellow.)

Arizelocichla neumanni, sp. nov.

Male adult. Much like *A. nigriceps* from Kilimanjaro, but ear-coverts not striped, dark grey, and there is no grey ring round the eye. Throat and jugulum somewhat darker grey. Wing of type 93 (in *A. nigriceps* 87–92); tail 89 (in *A. nigriceps* 80–87) mm.

Differs from *A. fusciceps* in having no trace of a white ring round the eye, darker crown, and shorter wing.

Hab. Uluguru Mts. in western part of Tanganyika Territory. Collected by Arthur Loveridge.

Type. In the Tring Museum. ♂, No. R 7275, Uluguru Mts., 18. v. 1921. Presumably more in coll. Loveridge.

Named in honour of Professor Oscar Neumann, who gave valuable assistance in naming Mr. Loveridge's Uluguru collection.

Arizelocichla nigriceps percivali, subsp. nov.

Differs from *A. n. nigriceps* in having the crown of the head brownish-grey, not blackish, and having over the eye a grey line, followed by a black one above. The back is slightly lighter yellowish-green, abdomen brighter and more washed with yellow. Wing of type 88; tail 84 mm.

Hab. Usambara Mts., Tanganyika Territory.

Type. In the Tring Museum, July 1919. A. Blayney Percival leg. Other specimens seen in Percival's collection.

Lioptilus stierlingi uluguru, subsp. nov.

Female adult. Similar to *L. s. stierlingi* from Lake Nyassa, but larger; wing 70 instead of 64–66; bill larger; upperside a little brighter rufous.

Hab. Uluguru Mts.

Type. In the Tring Museum. ♀ ad., Uluguru Mts., 3. vi. 1921. Arthur Loveridge coll.

Obs. There are no specimens of *L. stierlingi* in England, but Professor Neumann has kindly compared the one skin sent by Mr. Loveridge with the types in the Berlin Museum.

Saxicola torquata promiscua, subsp. nov.

Male adult. Breast chestnut, inner edges of quills whitish-buff to white. Wing 65–69 mm.

Female. Upper tail-coverts buffy-brown, not white. Wing 61–64 mm.

The ♂ differs from that of *S. t. axillaris* in having the black of the throat more, the chestnut of the breast less, extended, and the inner edges of the quills lighter. It differs from the ♂ of *S. t. salax* (W. Africa) in the upperside having more rufous edges in fresh plumage, while the ♀ is less rufous altogether. Differs from the ♂ of *S. t. orientalis* (Scl., 1911) in having less chestnut on the underside, from that of *S. t. rubicola* in the deeper, more chestnut colour of the breast, and the upper tail-coverts have, in fresh plumage, rufous edges but no black spots. All the other above-named African forms have also, as a rule, longer wings.

The ♀ differs from that of *S. t. axillaris, salax*, and *orientalis* in having the upper tail-coverts brownish, not white, and it is almost indistinguishable from that of *S. t. rubicola* except in size.

Hab. Southern parts of Tanganyika Territory, Uluguru Mountains to Lake Nyassa (Uluguru, Ngomingi, Songea, Konde, Tandalla, Ukinga, Kalinga, Manow).

Type. In the Tring Museum. ♂ ad., Uluguru Mts., 8. v. 1921. Arthur Loveridge coll., no. 16.

Mr. J. D. La Touche described the following new birds from S.E. Yunnan in S.W. China :—

Parus monticolus yunnanensis, subsp. nov.

Differs from both *P. m. monticolus* and *P. m. insperatus* in having the back of a darker green. The upper tail-coverts

in the male are dark grey-blue edged paler, not blackish as in *P. m. monticolus* and *insperatus*. The underparts are also much greener than in either of these forms. The terminal spots on the tertiaries are narrow, much as in *P. m. monticolus*.

Types. ♂ ♀, Milati, S.E. Yunnan, 20 Jan., 1921.

Suthora alphonsiana elisabethæ, subsp. nov.

Near *S. a. yunnanensis*, but differs in having the crown of the head of a more intense red, this colour being prolonged down the back, and in the colour of the sides of the head, which are pinkish-grey glossed with red. The abdomen is somewhat buffish. Size smaller than *S. yunnanensis*. Iris deep brown with an outer circle of grey. Bill and legs livid reddish-grey.

Type. ♂, Loukouchai, S.E. Yunnan, 1921.

Dryonastes chinensis lowei, subsp. nov.

Near *Dryonastes c. chinensis*, but with the slaty-grey of the crown extending over the back and blending into the olive-brown of the lower back. The underparts are also of a purer grey as far as the lower abdomen, which is olive-brown. The grey edging of the primaries extends to the 6th primary as in true *D. chinensis*, but is darker and duller. ♂. Wing 119 mm., tail 119 mm.

Type. ♂, Hokow, S.E. Yunnan (Tongking frontier), 27 March, 1921.

Named in honour of Dr. Percy Lowe.

Obs. The Burmese bird, *D. leucogenys* Blyth, has the slate-grey of the head sharply separated from the uniform olive-brown upper parts. The underparts in this latter bird are of a paler and browner grey than in the Yunnan bird.

The Burmese form was described from Upper Bengal, where, as I am informed by Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker, it does not occur.

Trochalopterum canorum yunnanensis, subsp. nov.

Differs from *T. canorum* of Fohkien and Central China in being of a more earthy and darker brown on the upper parts, in having the sides of the head dark brown, the flanks darker,

and the stripes on the head, throat, and neck heavier. The tail also is darker and is conspicuously barred. Wing 93 mm. Iris hazel ; bill brown, base of lower mandible yellow ; legs dusky reddish-yellow.

Type. ♂, Hokow, S.E. Yunnan, 4 Feb., 1921.

Haringtonia perniger sinensis, subsp. nov.

Very near *H. perniger* of Hainan, but pure black, the glossy edging of the feathers of the upper parts no tnearly so well developed and wanting the green gloss so apparent in *H. perniger*. Bill and legs coral-red.

Type. ♂, Hokow, S.E. Yunnan, 15 March, 1921.

Cryptolopha castaneiceps laurentei, subsp. nov.

Near *Cryptolopha c. sinensis* of Fohkien, but differing in the shade of the yellow of the underparts, which is a little paler with a decided green tinge, in having some white in the centre of the underparts just below the grey breast, and in the darkest markings on the nape, which are pure black. Wing 51 mm. Iris dark brown ; upper mandible brown, lower mandible orange ; legs flesh-colour, reddish, or dull reddish-grey.

Type. ♂, Mengtsz, S.E. Yunnan, 21 March, 1921.

Suya crinigera bangsi, subsp. nov.

Near *S. c. yunnanensis*, but in the summer plumage differing in being of a much lighter brown above. In the winter plumage it has darker striations on the head. Bill large, as in West-Yunnan birds. Wing 53 mm.

Type. ♂?, Mengtsz, S.E. Yunnan (4000 ft.), 19 Sept., 1920.

Suya crinigera parvirostris, subsp. nov.

Male (breeding). Differs markedly from summer examples of *S. c. yunnanensis* by the sharp striations of the upper parts, the head being clearly and narrowly streaked with rich brown on a grey ground, and all the markings of the upper parts almost as well indicated as in winter birds.

Male (winter). Easily distinguished from *S. c. yunnanensis* by the darker and finer striæ of the upper parts, the ground-colour of the crown being greyer. The bill in this form is very small. Wing 50 mm.

Type. ♂, Shuitang, S.E. Yunnan (6000 ft.), 1 May, 1921.

Pericrocotus speciosus bakeri, subsp. nov.

Male. Adult resembles *P. s. fohkienensis* S. Baker in its scarlet colouring. It has the terminal half of the outer web of the central rectrices broadly edged with red. It differs from *P. speciosus* of Sikkim and Nepaul in having the red parts of its plumage scarlet-red, not orange-red.

Female. Adult much darker above than *P. s. fohkienensis*, the head and back being dark grey tinged with olive. The forehead has much yellow, and the tertials are edged with the same. The underparts are of a very rich yellow, with the merest tinge of green on the breast and flanks. Wing 103 mm.

Types. ♂, Loukouchai, S.E. Yunnan, 23 Feb., 1921.
♀, Mengtsz, ,, ,, 28 Nov., 1920.

Named in honour of Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker.

Phasianus colchicus rothschildi, subsp. nov.

Male. Adult differs from *P. elegans* Elliot, of Szechuen, by its conspicuously paler lower hind neck, which has pale coppery-gold reflections, not coppery-chestnut, in the colour of the sides of the breast and of the flanks, the feathers of which are of a pale chestnut shading into gold on their terminal half, and in the upper surface of the tail which is olive, not deep chestnut-red. The breast is glossy dark blue shot with green. Some specimens have the upper breast green, the lower breast being of a deep ruby colour. Iris orange-yellow; face-skin scarlet-red; bill whitish; legs pale pinkish-grey.

Type. ♂, Mountains near Mengtsz, S.E. Yunnan, 31 March, 1921.

I name this fine Pheasant in honour of Lord Rothschild.

Acanthopneuste trochiloides ogilvie-granti, subsp. nov.

Differs from *A. t. fohkiensis* Hartert in being of a brighter and more yellowish-green above. The head is paler with the coronal stripes less distinct, the dark stripes being merely darkish olive-green. It resembles *A. trochiloides* Blyth in its light green colouring, but differs from it in its much smaller size and in the narrow edging of the inner web of the outer rectrices. Wing: ♂ 52–55 mm., ♀ 50·5–51 mm.

Type. In the Tring Museum. ♂, Kuatun, N.W. Fohkien, 11 April, 1897.

I name this bird in honour of Mr. W. R. Ogilvie-Grant, who some years ago pointed out its distinctness to me.

Mr. La Touche proposed the name of

Sitta europæa nebulosa, nom. nov.,

for his recently described *S. e. obscura* (*cf.* p. 31), the latter name being preoccupied.

The Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain made the following remarks with regard to Col. R. Meinertzhagen's communication to the B. O. C. in November (p. 25) :—

Until quite recently there have been two gaps in the series available for comparison of European and American Grey Phalaropes. Breeding birds from the Hudson's Bay district in July were very poorly represented, while May-killed birds were altogether lacking. Both these gaps have now been filled, and confirm Mr. Iredale's diagnosis. I am exhibiting to-night a female from Devonshire, dated May 14th, and recorded in 'British Birds,' ii. p. 204, side by side with an American bird of similar date, and the differences are so striking, even by artificial light, that there can now be no longer any doubt that the differences are not seasonal, as maintained by Col. Meinertzhagen, but geographical, as stated by Mr. Iredale. It is curious that Col. Meinertzhagen had evidence of this in his hands, but failed to see its significance. In the 'Bulletin' (pp. 26–7) he admits that birds from E. Greenland are paler (or, as he describes it, "show con-

siderable fading in June"), while in W. Greenland birds at the same season the colouring is much more intense. This he explains by propounding a theory that birds in West Greenland breed later than on the east side, presumably on account of the more severe climate. Unfortunately, this is in direct conflict with the actual facts. The east coast of Greenland north of Angsmagsalik is permanently blocked in the summer by pack-ice, while the west coast is washed by a branch of the Gulf Stream current and is ice-free. We have, moreover, accurate breeding-dates from both sides, and those from the west are earlier than those from the east! It is interesting to note that, while a large number of Nearctic forms have been recorded from West Greenland, the avifauna of north-east Greenland, as described by Manniche, is purely Palæarctic. This is especially noticeable if we compare the breeding-species of Geese from the east and west coasts. It would, therefore, be quite natural for the European race of Grey Phalarope to breed on the east side north of about lat. 67°, while the American form might be expected to occur on the east side of Baffin's Bay. We have now compared American and west European skins obtained from May to July, and, though some fading is apparent in both, the distinctive characters are readily apparent in the females throughout the whole period.

Dr. C. B. Ticehurst communicated the descriptions of the following races of Indian birds :—

Dendrocitta vagabunda saturatior, subsp. nov.

Adult. Browner, more saturated in colour above than the typical race; contrast between head, neck, and mantle almost lost. Mantle dark brown, not so orange-red. Darkest of all races of *D. vagabunda*, and individuals can be picked out at a glance. About 20 examined.

Type-locality. Kaukariyet Mts. in Amherst District of Lower Burma, to which it is almost confined.

Type. In the British Museum. ♀, Kankarieyet Mts., 3 Sept., 1878 ; Brit. Mus. Reg. No. 86. 3. 1. 650 (*J. Darling*). Hume coll.

Pyctorhis sinensis saturatior, subsp. nov.

Adult. Upper parts, especially head, saturated ; very dark brown, paling only on the rump. Chestnut colour of wings darker. Size as in typical *P. sinensis*. Large series examined.

Distribution. Bhutan and Buxa Doars, Sikkhim.

Type. In the British Museum. Bhutan Doars, Jan. 1877. Brit. Mus. Reg. No. 86. 10. 1. 4661 (*Mandelli*). Hume coll.

Otus bakkamœna deserticolor, subsp. nov.

Adult. Birds from Sind and Beluchistan stand out at a glance from the rest of the 150 Collared Scops Owls I have examined. Ground-colour of upper parts very pale, a grey-brown and the yellow on the collar and scapulars very pale ; under parts very pale almost a white ground with hardly any rufescent tinge. Wing 165–175 mm. (both sexes).

Distribution. Sind, N. Beluchistan ; a young bird from Muscat in the Bombay Mus. appears to belong here, and there is an adult in the Kurachi Museum labelled "Bushire."

Type. In the British Museum. ♀, Hyderabad, Sind, 10 April, 1878 ; Brit. Mus. Reg. No. 86. 2. 1. 364 (*E. A. Butler*). Hume coll.

Col. R. Meinertzhagen, on behalf of Mr. P. A. Buxton, asked some questions regarding

Desert Ornithology.

1. Whether birds which breed in hot deserts dislike leaving their eggs exposed to the sun for any time? Col. Meinertzhagen presumed that both parents of Sand-Grouse must come to water at some time, and that the eggs must therefore be left to the rays of the sun—at any rate, for a short period.

Some birds in hot climates bury their eggs, notably *Pluvianus* and *Charadrius varius*. Is this done for protection against the sun or against natural enemies?

2. Are the eggs of birds laid in deserts of a peculiar desert type, or do they conform to the general type of the group to

which they belong? Col. Meinertzhagen thought that there was no distinctive desert type.

3. Do Sand-Grouse carry water to their young in their crops or in their belly-feathers? There is no doubt that Sand-Grouse when coming from water have the feathers of the lower parts drenched with water, and there is also a considerable amount of water in the crop. Is there any direct evidence to show that water is carried in the feathers, or is it a myth?

A discussion followed, in which several members took part.

GENERAL INDEX.

A General Index to the 'Bulletin' covering volumes 16 to 39 is now ready and can be obtained, price £1, from the publishers, Messrs. H. F. & G. Witherby, 326 High Holborn, W.C.

The cost of production of this important volume has been very considerable and a serious tax upon the funds of the Club; it is hoped therefore that all members will subscribe for a copy, without which their series of the 'Bulletin' will be incomplete.

The next Meeting of the B. O. C. will be held on Wednesday, the 11th of January, 1922, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, the Dinner at 7 p.m. Members intending to dine are requested to inform the Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. L. Bonhote, Park Hill House, Carshalton, Surrey.

[N.B.—Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice *beforehand* to the Editor at Nat. Hist. Museum, South Kensington, and to place in his hands *not later than at the meeting* MSS. for publication in the Bulletin.]

(Signed)

W. L. Sclater,	Percy R. Lowe,	J. L. Bonhote,
Chairman.	*Editor.*	*Sec. & Treas.*

Smithsonian Institution
FEB 17 1922
National Museum.

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCLXV.

The two-hundred-and-sixty-second Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48, Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, January 11th, 1922.

Chairman: W. L. Sclater, M.A.

Members present:—E. C. Stuart Baker; J. L. Bonhote (*Hon. Sec. and Treas.*); C. D. Borrer; P. F. Bunyard; W. Eagle Clarke; A. H. Evans; A. K. Fisher; Dr. E. Hartert; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain; N. B. Kinnear; G. C. Lambert; Dr. H. Langton; Dr. G. C. Low; Dr. P. R. Lowe (*Editor*); C. W. Mackworth-Praed; Dr. P. Manson-Bahr; E. G. B. Meade-Waldo; Col. & Mrs. Meinertzhagen; T. H. Newman; F. R. Ratcliffe; C. B. Rickett; Lord Rothschild; D. Seth-Smith; Major A. G. L. Sladen; H. Kirke Swann; Dr. N. F. Ticehurst; K. G. R. Vaizey; H. M. Wallis; H. F. Witherby.

Guests:—A. Greening; A. Mayall.

Mr. W. L. Sclater communicated the following notes on the nomenclature and taxonomy of African birds (no. 3) :—

Geobiastes and Corapitta.

In the 'Hand-list' (vol. ii. p. 45) Sharpe states that the type of *Atelornis* Pucheran is *squamigera* Lafr., and for *pittoides* Lafr. he uses *Corapitta* Bp., or as he has emended it *Coracopitta*; but there can be no doubt that under the rules the type of *Atelornis* Pucheran is *Brachypteracias pittoides* by subsequent designation of Gray (Cat. Gen. Subgen. Bds. p. 13), while the type of *Corapitta* Bp. by monotypy is the same species. These two genera, *Atelornis* and *Corapitta*, are therefore synonyms. This leaves *Brachypteracias squamigera* to be placed in Sharpe's own genus *Geobiastes*, and the arrangement in the 'Catalogue of Birds' (xvii. p. 4) is the correct one rather than that in the 'Hand-list.'

Indicator variegata and its allies.

Zedlitz (Journ. Ornith. 1915, p. 8) was the last writer to revise this group. He recognized six forms, but probably, owing to scarcity of material, did not disentangle the confusion into which those from western Africa appear to have been plunged.

An examination of the material in the British Museum leads one to the conclusion that there are two distinct species in western Africa side by side, and that each comprises a paler and a more richly coloured race.

All the forms can be arranged as follows :—

1. *I. variegatus variegatus* Lesson, 1831 : Africa.

Crown black with white edges to some of the feathers, giving a spotted appearance; these edgings olivaceous or buffy in younger birds; the mottling on the underparts does not extend below the breast.

Distr. Throughout east and south Africa, from southern Abyssinia through Uganda and Kenya Colony to Nyasaland, Angola, and Cape Province.

2. *I. variegatus jubaensis* Neumann, Bull. B.O.C. xxi. p. 97 (1908) : Jonte, nr. Kismayu.

Only differing from *I. v. variegatus* in its smaller size : wing 97–103 against 105–112 mm.

Only known from the types in the Erlanger collection. No specimens examined.

3. *I. maculatus maculatus* Gray, Gen. Bds. ii. p. 451, pl. 113 (1847) : *patr. null.*, but type in Brit. Mus. from Gambia.

Crown as in *I. v. variegatus*, spotted with white but with a greenish wash ; mottling and spotting of the breast extending down to the thighs.

Distr. Gambia and Portuguese Guinea (Gunnal, 2 ex., Ansorge Coll.).

4. *I. maculatus stictithorax*, Reichenow, Journ. Ornith. 1877, p. 110 : Cameroon.

Resembling *I. m. maculatus*, but with more richly coloured underparts, strongly washed with green.

Only known from Cameroon.

5. *I. fœ fœ* Salvadori, Ann. Mus. Genova, (2) xx. p. 783 (1901) : Farim, Portuguese Guinea.

Crown dusky green with no trace of white spotting below, with the mottling ill-defined and not extending below the chest.

Only known from Portuguese Guinea and Sierra Leone. Two examples in the British Museum from Gunnal (Ansorge Coll.) and one from Sierra Leone (*Kelsall*).

6. *I. fœ theresiæ* Alexander, Bull. B.O.C. xxi. p. 90 (1908) : Gudima, Mombattu Country, E. Belgian Congo.

Close to *I. f. fœ*, but with a more richly coloured crown, bright green like the back and underparts, strongly washed with green.

Cameroon (*Bates & Johnston*), east to the upper waters of the Welle at Gudima in the Mombattu Country.

Tricholæma hirsutum.

The races of this species form an interesting series, ranging through the forest region of western Africa from Liberia to Angola.

The following is a synopsis and key of the subspecies :—

Tricholæma hirsutum hirsutum.

Pogonias hirsutus Swainson, Zool. Illustr. ii. p. 22, pl. 72 (1821) : Africa. I propose Gold Coast as a restricted type-locality.

Distr. Liberia and Gold Coast Colony.

Tricholæma hirsutum hybridum.

Tricholæma hirsutum hybridum Neumann, Bull. B. O. C. xxi. 1908, p. 46 : Degama, S. Nigeria.

Distr. Southern Nigeria east to the Upper Welle river.

Tricholæma hirsutum ansorgii.

Tricholæma ansorgii Shelley, Bull. B. O. C. v. 1895, p. iii : Uganda. Type in Brit. Mus. from Port Alice (*i. e.*, Entebbe), Uganda.

Distr. Forests of Uganda from Ruwenzori to Lake Victoria.

Tricholæma hirsutum flavipunctatum.

Tricholæma flavipunctata J. & E. Verreaux, Journ. Ornith. 1855, p. 103 : Gaboon.

Distr. Cameroon Mt. and Cameroon, south to the lower Congo valley.

Tricholæma hirsutum angolense.

Tricholæma hirsutum angolense Neumann, Bull. B. O. C. xxi. 1908, p. 47 : Golungo Alto, N. Angola.

Distr. Northern Angola.

The following is a key to distinguish these forms :—

1. With two white stripes on either side of the head—one from above the eye to the ear-coverts, the other from the base of the mandibles ..... 2.
   Without white stripes on the side of the head. 4.

2. Throat always black in the male, in the female whitish heavily striped with black; crown very slightly spotted ..... *T. h. hirsutum.*
   Throat never black, always whitish streaked with black.
3. Less heavily marked with black on the abdomen; crown of female very slightly spotted with yellow ..... *T. h. hybridum.*
   More heavily spotted on the underparts; crown of the female thickly spotted with yellow ..... *T. h. ansorgii.*
4. Spotting on the abdomen black and clearly marked ..... *T. h. flavipunctatum.*
   Spotting on the abdomen brownish and indistinct ..... *T. h. angolense.*

Tricholæma leucomelan namaqua, subsp. nov.

Closely resembling *T. l. leucomelan*, but with the underparts thickly spotted with oval spots of black. Size approximately the same as the typical form.

Type. A male from Klipfontein, Little Namaqualand (3100 ft.), 13 July, 1903, collected by C. H. B. Grant. Brit. Mus. Reg. No. 1905/12/29/455.

Two other examples (females) also collected by Mr. Grant at the same place, and a female from Springbok, also in Little Namaqualand, collected by Mr. Chas. Reid, 30 August, 1902, all show the same character.

A series from Deelfontein, Cape Province, have distinct traces of the spots, but are intermediate between the birds from the Transvaal, Damaraland, and Angola, with pure unspotted underparts, and the Namaqualand birds.

I have also seen an example of this form, now in the South African Museum, from Clanwilliam in the western part of the Cape Province.

Micropus caffer ansorgei, subsp. nov.

Description. Closely resembling *M. c. caffer* and *M. c. streubeli*, but distinguished by the darker colour of the crown and head, which is almost as dark as the back, and not distinctly brown and contrasting with the back

as in the other two forms. In size somewhat intermediate : wing 140–143 mm.

Type. A male from Ndala Tando, northern Angola, collected by Dr. W. J. Ansorge, 17 Sept, 1908. Brit. Mus. Reg. No. 1910/5/6/265.

There is also in the Museum a female collected the same day, and another male obtained at the same place on 24 July, 1908. Two other Swifts collected by Petit at Landana, in Portuguese Congo, are very similar, but are smaller : wings 132 and 135 mm. They appear to be intergrades with *M. c. streubeli.*

Mr. A. H. Evans exhibited three series of eggs of *Cuculus canorus.* The first series was collected in collaboration with Mr. W. A. Harding in, or in close proximity to, his (Manor House) garden at Histon, Cambs. Six hen-birds were undoubtedly laying eggs there simultaneously. By great good fortune those of one were so peculiar that they gave certain proof of its laying eggs in the nests of four different foster-parents; but a fact which is much more important is that the dates show that the identical bird returned to the same garden year after year.

Another set of 5 clutches, of a less peculiar type, strengthens the evidence, but here the Robin is the usual foster-parent (in three cases). In each of the other instances only two clutches were exhibited, with one egg which was laid in an empty (deserted) Pied Wagtail's nest.

The second series consisted of eggs taken on the Cam, a few miles above or below Cambridge, by Messrs. Evans and Richmond and Mills. These, taken singly or two in the same nest during a period of several years, were of two types only—one distinctly red, the other grey. All came from Reed- or Sedge-Warblers' nests; if two were found together, they were always of different hues. The dates once more show the return of the same hen in successive years, while the range extends over four or five miles in two cases.

The third series consists chiefly of eggs of two very curious types exhibited by Mr. Bonhote and Dr. Ticehurst. One type

is elongated and coloured like a Spotted Flycatcher—this was taken above and below the town; the other was confined to the vicinity of a pit at Clayhithe five miles below, and was marked with very small grey stipples. Each recurred year after year for a time, then could be found no longer. In each case eggs differing only in brightness of tint occurred, and it was suggested that they might belong to an ancestor or descendant respectively. The number of foster-parents' eggs left untouched was shown to be very variable; but no emphasis was laid on this fact, as the nests were frequently visited and the Cuckoos eggs promptly removed.

Several eggs with unusual foster-parents completed the exhibition.

Mr. Kirke Swann made the following remarks :—

During my recent visit to America to attend the annual gathering of the American Ornithologists' Union, I was able to visit several of the principal museums in the Eastern States, and I think a brief account of what I found there may be of interest. I should like, by way of preface, to remark that I did not find the climate so *dry* as I was led to expect—in fact, it was very variable,—some spots being much wetter than others, and I noted it as a curious fact that the "wet" spots were generally where one met brother ornithologists.

I went first to New York, and here I spent three or four days at the American Museum of Natural History and experienced the courtesy of Messrs. Chapman, Dwight, Griscom, and others of the staff. The collection of skins at this museum is a large and interesting one, very rich in North American birds and moderately so in South American, and the latter are pretty energetically worked by the staff, each of them is allotted a separate geographical area to work upon by Dr. Chapman. I made a number of interesting notes here and acquired much useful information.

During my stay in New York I went over one day to the Brooklyn Institute Museum, where Mr. Engelhardt proved very obliging, but the skin-collection there was very limited. I found, however, a pair of Turkey-Vultures from Chincha

Islands, Central Peru, which belonged to the Falkland Island form (*C. aura falklandica* of Sharpe), thus greatly extending its known range on the west coast.

At Philadelphia, where the A.O.U. had a most successful meeting and made me very welcome, I was able to examine the Cassin types and other interesting skins of the *Accipitres* in the museum of the Academy of Natural Sciences, but here many skins had been made up from old mounted examples, and in many cases lacked precise data.

From there I went north to Boston and Cambridge, where I was made most welcome by Dr. Townsend and various other good friends of the Nuttall Club, and also by Mr. Outram Bangs and Mr. Peters of the Museum of Comp. Zoology, Mr. Bangs especially giving me the utmost freedom and assistance in my work there. I also spent an interesting week-end with Dr. Townsend on the sand-dunes up the coast, and visited, among other places, a Night-Heronry of some 800 nests.

The collection at Cambridge is very representative, being rich in American birds, while it also contains much good African and other Old World material. The West Indian collection is especially good.

I worked out here, with the aid of the fine series of Gyrfalcons, the North American forms of these troublesome birds, and came to the conclusion that there was only one form from Greenland, Labrador, and Eastern Arctic America, viz., *Falco rusticolus candicans*—the black Labrador birds known as *obsoletus* being merely a melanistic phase of *candicans* occurring along with white birds. The Alaskan birds, however, I had to leave until I examined the series at Washington. The new birds I found here included a new form of Merlin from the Pacific coast, California to Eastern British Columbia, first pointed out to me by Mr. Bangs, which I propose to call

Falco columbarius bendirei, subsp. nov.

Smaller than *F. c. richardsoni* (wing, ♂ 186–200, ♀ 202–218); ♂ darker slate above than in *F. c. richardsoni*, but lighter than in *F. c. columbarius*; tail black with three

bands of greyish white, instead of slate-grey as in *F. c. columbarius*; below as dark and heavily striped as in *F. c. columbarius*; thighs rufous-buff, much darker than in *F. c. richardsoni*; ♀ similar to that of *F. c. richardsoni* above, but a shade darker brown; below as dark as *F. c. columbarius*. In the series these differences are very noticeable, and the bird is, of course, quite different to *F. c. suckleyi*, the more northern coastal form.

Type. ♂, Fort Walla Walla, Washington State, 18 Oct., 1881; Capt. Bendire, No. 7687, Mus. Comp. Zool., Harvard.

I also found some interesting forms of *Urubitinga* here, including *Urubitinga gundlachi* from Cuba, which proved to be a perfectly good and distinct species, and, on a comparison of *Spizaëtus ornatus* with *S. tyrannus*, I found, as suggested by Mr. Sclater, that the latter was only the black phase of the former.

Next I went down to Washington, where I spent about a week at the U.S. Nat. Mus., and received the same kind attention from Messrs. Richmond, Oberholser, Wetmore, Riley, and others, and also from Dr. Palmer, secretary of the A. O. U. This Museum contains, on the whole, the best collection in North America, although in the case of certain *Accipitres*, as might be expected, I found it could be beaten by the other museums. Here I finished my examination of the American Gyrfalcons, and came to the conclusion that the dark Alaskan race, of which there was a good series, was not identifiable with any of the Old World forms and constituted a second form for North America. This Alaskan race, the *F. sacer* of Ridgway, the *F. islandus* of Newton, the *F. gyrfalco* of Sharpe, Dresser, and Brewster, has figured under various names, but has no correct name of its own, so I propose to rename it:—

Falco rusticolus alascanus, subsp. nov.

Dark race; appreciably smaller and darker than *F. r. islandus* or *F. r. uralensis*; slightly smaller than *F. r. rusticolus*, darker above and with the bars on wing-coverts and secondaries rather whiter and wider. Wing, ♂, 340–358, tail 210; wing, ♀, 386–400, tail 220–230; wing, ♀ type, 400 mm.; above blackish slate, barred and edged with pale

grey; head uniform blackish slate; rump lighter and bluer; primaries broadly barred with white on inner webs and with obsolete spots on outer webs; tail evenly barred across with dark slate and greyish white; cheeks with distinct black moustachial stripe; below white, chest streaked, breast and under wing-coverts spotted and flanks barred with black; thighs and under tail-coverts strongly barred with blackish slate; bill bluish, tip black. Less mature birds are much browner above.

Type. ♀, Norton Bay, Alaska, Oct. 1879, *E. W. Nelson*, No. 96776, U.S. Nat. Mus.

There was one white bird taken at St. Michael's, Alaska, but not breeding, which I judged to belong, not to *F. r. candicans* of Greenland and Arctic America, but to the Bering Island colony, which is a small white race.

The Old World Gyrfalcons are correctly designated by Dr. Hartert, and with the addition of the above renamed form the circle is, I believe, completed and the confusion of the American races, as evidenced in the 1910 A. O. U. Check List, cleared up.

Mr. David Bannerman sent the description of the following new West African birds :—

Fraseria ocreata kelsalli, subsp. nov.

Adult. Distinguished from *F. o. ocreata* by having the upper parts uniform grey and the breast white, and by having the feathers of the breast, flanks, and under tail-coverts broadly margined with grey—very distinct from the typical species, which has the breast-feathers narrowly margined with black and the head darker than the back. In this latter character it resembles *F. o. prosphora* Oberholser, but may be readily distinguished from that form by the markings on the breast.

Bill 15; wing 87; tail 65; tarsus 21 mm.

Type. In the British Museum. ♀ ad., Brit. Mus. Reg. No. 1913. 7. 6. 5, York Pass, Sierra Leone, 1 June, 1911. Col. H. J. Kelsall, R.A., coll.

Obs. Named in honour of Colonel H. J. Kelsall, D.S.O., R.A., who has done so much to further our knowledge of the Birds of Sierra Leone.

Fraseria cinerascens guineæ, subsp. nov.

Adult male. Distinguished from *F. c. cinerascens* by the paler colouring of the upper parts, which are uniform throughout, the head not darker than the back as in *F. c. cinerascens.* The feathers of the breast are less distinctly edged with grey, and the throat is more uniform white. The white patch above the lores is very pronounced.

Bill 74 ; wing 81 ; tail 62; tarsus 19 mm.

Range. Portuguese Guinea.

Type. In the British Museum. Brit. Mus. Reg. No. 1910. 5. 6. 516. ♂ ad., Gunnal, Portuguese Guinea, 30 May, 1909. W. J. Ansorge coll.

Sand-Grouse.

In reply to a question asked by Col. Meinertzhagen on behalf of Mr. P. A. Buxton on December 14th, 1921, as to whether there was any direct evidence to show that water is carried to the young in the feathers, or is it a myth?, Mr. Meade-Waldo made the following statement :—

This habit was first described by me in 'The Zoologist' of 1896, p. 299, and has been more fully described in 'The Field' and in various papers in the 'Avicultural Magazine'; but, for the benefit of any who may not have read it, I looked through my notes and find that between the years 1895 and 1915 sixty-one broods of Sand-Grouse were hatched in our aviaries. Almost all the eggs laid were fertile and hatched, and about two-thirds of the young were reared. The Sand-Grouse were of three species—*Pterocles alchatus*, *P. exustus*, and *P. arenarius*. The great majority were of the first species, only seven broods of *P. exustus* and three broods of *P. arenarius* being reared. The breeding-habits of all three species were precisely similar. The female sitting by day and the male by night, incubation lasted about 23 days, but was influenced by the weather—in very hot weather *P. exustus* hatching in 17 days on one occasion. The young are carefully attended by both parents, but are strong and feed themselves from the first. Water is conveyed to the young in the following curious manner, by the male only.

I will quote from my letter to 'The Zoologist.' "The male rubs his breast violently up and down on the ground—a motion quite distinct from dusting,—and when his feathers are awry gets into his drinking-water and saturates the feathers of his underparts. When soaked he goes through the motions of flying away, nodding his head, etc.; then, remembering his family is close by, he would run to the hen, make a demonstration, when the young run out, get under him, and suck the water from his breast"—the appearance being that of a mammal suckling her young. The young pass the feathers through their bills, and keep changing places until the supply becomes exhausted.

Until the young can fly *they take water in no other way*, and the cock gives it to the young *only*.

GENERAL INDEX.

A General Index to the 'Bulletin' covering volumes 16 to 39 is now ready and can be obtained, price £1, from the publishers, Messrs. H. F. & G. Witherby, 326 High Holborn, W.C.

The cost of production of this important volume has been very considerable and a serious tax upon the funds of the Club; it is hoped therefore that all members will subscribe for a copy, without which their series of the 'Bulletin' will be incomplete.

The next Meeting of the B. O. C. will be held on Wednesday, the 8th of February, 1922, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, the Dinner at 7 p.m. Members intending to dine are requested to inform the Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. L. Bonhote, Park Hill House, Carshalton, Surrey.

[N.B.—Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice *beforehand* to the Editor at Nat. Hist. Museum, South Kensington, and to place in his hands *not later than at the meeting* MSS. for publication in the Bulletin.]

(Signed)

W. L. Sclater,	Percy R. Lowe,	J. L. Bonhote,
Chairman.	*Editor.*	*Sec. & Treas.*

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCLXVI.

The two-hundred-and-sixty-third Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48, Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, February 8th, 1922.

Chairman: W. L. Sclater, M.A.

Members present:—E. C. Stuart Baker; G. K. Baynes; P. F. Bunyard; C. Chubb; Dr. W. Eagle Clarke; R. H. Deane; Lt.-Col. H. Delmé-Radcliffe; Rev. J. R. Hale; Dr. E. Hartert; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain; N. B. Kinnear; Dr. H. Langton; Dr. P. R. Lowe (*Editor*); C. W. Mackworth-Praed; G. M. Mathews; Lt.-Col. & Mrs. Meinertzhagen; D. W. Musselwhite; T. H. Newman; C. E. Pearson; C. B. Rickett; Lord Rothschild; Major A. G. L. Sladen; H. F. Witherby.

Lord Rothschild exhibited the fossil egg of *Struthiolithus* sp. and said that the original egg of *Struthiolithus chersonesus* was found in South Russia, but had been accidentally destroyed. The present specimen and six others recorded had been washed out of the river-bank near Wuan, Province of Houan, China. It was impossible,

Smithsonian Institution

without comparison with a South Russian specimen, to say if they were the same, but there were considerable differences between the measurements of the Chinese eggs and those given of *S. chersonesus*. This was, however, somewhat discounted by the great variations in size among the Chinese eggs. Of the seven recorded eggs, five were absolutely perfect and two damaged when found; one in the British Museum was broken in transit, but has been entirely and successfully repaired.

Mr. W. L. Sclater communicated the following notes on the nomenclature and taxonymy of African Birds (no. 4) :—

Hæmatopus moquini.

An earlier name for the African Black Oystercatcher is *Hæmatopus niger* Temminck (Man. d'Orn. 2nd ed. ii. p. 63, 1820) ; this name was formerly said to be invalidated by *Hæmatopus niger* Pallas (Zoogr. Ross. Asiat. ii. p. 131), supposed to have been published in 1811, but as this work was not published till 1827, Temminck's name has priority. A still earlier use of the name is found in Gmelin (*Scolopax nigra* Gmelin, Syst. Nat. i. pt. 2, p. 659, 1789) for the Black Oystercatcher of the northern Pacific. We must therefore continue to use the old name of the Catalogue for the Black Oystercatcher of South Africa, *Hæmatopus moquini* Bonaparte, Compt. Rend. xliii. p. 1020 (1856) : Africa.

It would appear to be more logical to rank the Black Oystercatchers as species rather than as subspecies, as their distribution is so discontinuous.

Charadrius pecuarius.

This name for the Kittlitz Sand-Plover is discarded by Hartert (Vög. pal. Faun. p. 1540) for *Charadrius varius* Vieillot (N. Dict. xxvii. p. 143, 1818), which he states is not preoccupied by Linnæus as asserted by Sharpe (Cat. Birds, xxiv. p. 297), and should therefore be used. But as has been

pointed out to me by Mr. T. Iredale, *Charadrius varius* was used by Temminck (Cat. Syst. Cab. d'Orn. p. 174, 1807) as an alternative name to *Ch. pluvialis*, and this precludes the use of Vieillot's name. This little Plover must therefore retain its old and well-known name *Charadrius pecuarius* Temm., published in the 'Planches Coloriées' in 1823.

Himantopus himantopus.

Bangs (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. lxi. p. 493, 1918) separates the Stilt of Madagascar from the typical form apparently on the grounds of its smaller size—wing ranging from 220–237 mm., average 226. Hartert gives 240–253 mm. for males and 227–236 mm. for females for the typical form. The only two specimens from Madagascar in the Museum, both unsexed, measure 228 and 236 mm. respectively, and they do not appear to differ in any other respect from the typical race. There seems to be little grounds, therefore, for the recognition of a Madagascan race.

The name used by Bangs, *Hysibates himantopus minor* Natterer, appears to date from 1860, when Hartlaub (Journ. Ornith. 1860, p. 170) mentions the Madagascan Stilt as *Himantopus minor* ex Natterer MS. The name *H. minor* Hartlaub, 1860, is preoccupied by *Himantopus minor* Brehm ('Isis,' 1843, p. 727: Hungary); so, even if the Madagascan bird is regarded as distinct, it will have to be provided with a new name.

Genera Pterocles and Pteroclurus.

It is with considerable regret that I find that there is some confusion in regard to these two generic names, which are commonly used for the Sandgrouse with and without elongated central tail-feathers. The trouble has arisen through the mistake made by Mr. Ogilvie-Grant (Cat. Birds B.M. xxii. p. 16, 1893) in making *Pterocles arenarius* the type of the genus. There can be no doubt that under the rules the type of Temminck's genus *Pterocles* is *P. alchata* by subsequent designation of Gray (List Gen. Birds, 1st ed. p. 62, 1840), and this is one of the long-tailed species.

The genus *Pteroclurus* was established (Comptes Rend. xlii. p. 880, 1856) by Bonaparte for the long-tailed species *P. alchata*, *exustus*, *namaqua*, and *senegallus*, and the type designated by O.-Grant himself as the first-named. It is therefore obvious that the generic names *Pterocles* and *Pteroclurus* are synonyms, and that *Pterocles* must be used for the Long-tailed Sandgrouse.

If following Dr. Hartert (Vög. pal. Faun. p. 1501) we consider the elongation of the central tail-feathers not of sufficient importance to justify generic separation, we can keep all the species (except, of course, *Syrrhapes paradoxus*) under the generic name *Pterocles* as he has done. If not, we must find a new substitute name for the short-tailed species. I would propose, therefore, for this purpose

Eremialector, nom. nov.,

to take the place of *Pterocles* O.-Grant nec G. Gray, and designate as the type *Tetrao orientalis* Linn., which is an older name for the better known *Pterocles arenarius* (Pall.). The name derives from *ἐρημία*, a desert, and *ἀλέκτωρ*, a cock.

Pterocles variegatus.

It has been pointed out to me by Mr. T. Iredale that the name *Tetrao variegatus* Burchell ('Travels,' ii. p. 345, 1824) is preoccupied by *Tetrao variegatus* Gmelin (Syst. Nat. i. pt. 2, p. 768, 1789), bestowed on the Variegated Tinamou of Latham, and now known as *Crypturus variegatus*. As there appears to be no synonym for this distinct species of Sandgrouse, I propose to rename it after the discoverer

Pterocles [Eremialector] burchelli, nom. nov.

Genus Spizaëtus.

This genus is a somewhat comprehensive one, containing as it does, according to Sharpe and most authors, very different-looking Accipitrine birds from South America, Africa, and south-eastern Asia. Its distinguishing character, according to Sharpe, is the short and rounded wing, in which

the difference in length between the primaries and secondaries is less than the length of the tarsus.

Recently Ridgway (Smithsonian Misc. Coll. vol. 72, no. 4, 1920) has proposed a new generic name, *Oroaëtus*, for the second Neotropical species *Spizaëtus isidori* (Desmurs) of the Catalogue, and another new generic name, *Phœoaëtus*, for the *Spizaëtus limnaëtus* group of south-eastern Asia, but he did not deal with the African species. These are three in number, and to show how different they are, I have drawn up a table showing the proportional of the wings, tail, and tarsus, taking the wing at 100 in each case :—

	Wing.	Difference between the length of the primaries and secondaries.	Tail.	Tarsus.
S. ornatus .... (Type of the genus.)	100	18·5	77·1	25·7
S. bellicosus	100	16·1	51·6	17·7
S. coronatus ..	100	5·3	73·6	18·6
S. africanus...	100	16·9	70·0	23·0

For *S. bellicosus* with its remarkable short tail and tarsus we may use the generic name *Polemaëtus* Heine, in Heine & Reichenow, Nomencl. Mus. Hein. p. 270, 1890 ; type by monotypy, *Falco bellicosus* Daud.

For the other two African forms there seem to be no generic names available. I propose, therefore, the following :—

Stephanoaëtus, gen. nov.

Bill stout and strong with a sharp hook ; wings comparatively short and rounded, not reaching more than halfway down the tail in the skin, the primaries hardly exceeding the secondaries by more than 50 mm. ; the fourth, fifth, and sixth the longest ; tail exceedingly long, about three-quarters the length of the wing, the outer feathers slightly shorter than the central ones ; tarsus stout and rather short, clothed with feathers throughout to the middle

of the basal joint of the phalanges; claws, especially that of the hind toe, exceedingly large and strong.

Type. Falco coronatus Linnæus.

Cassinaëtus, gen. nov.

Bill moderately strong; wing moderately long and pointed, the primaries exceeding the secondaries by nearly one-fifth of the total length of the former, the fourth and fifth primaries subequal and the longest; tail fairly long, the outer feathers slightly shorter than the middle ones; tarsus long and rather slender, thickly clothed with feathers well down or to the first joint of the phalanges; claws moderate, hind claw the longest.

Type. Limnaëtus africanus Cassin.

Genus Ortholophus.

It has been pointed out to me by Mr. Tom Iredale that this genus, introduced by Mr. Ogilvie-Grant (Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. xvii. p. 424, 1892) for two West African Hornbills, is preoccupied by *Ortholophus* Bigot, Bull. Soc. Ent. Fr. (6) ii. p. 129 (1882), for a genus of Diptera. I propose to substitute

Tropicranus, gen. nov.,

for Mr. Ogilvie-Grant's *Ortholophus* with type *Ortholophus cassini* Finsch, as designated in my previous note (Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. xlii. p. 44, 1922). The name derives from τρόπις, a keel, and κράνος, a helmet.

Mr. P. F. Bunyard exhibited mounted specimens of nest, feathers, and down of the Buffel-headed Duck (*Bucephala albeola*) from Buffalo Lake, Alberta, taken by Messrs. H. G. Lings and C. B. Horsbrugh on June 7th and 13th, 1920.

Description.—Feathers (type or predominating feather): terminal portion pure white, basal or downy portion greyish white, paler where it meets the terminal portion; the calamus is distinctly a warmer shade of grey.

Measurements (average) 26 mm.

Down, same colour as basal portion of feathers, paler immediately above the calamus.

Feathers and down similar to those of the Golden-Eye (*B. clangula*) and Barrow's Golden-Eye (*B. islandica*), but smaller and paler in colour.

Mr. Bunyard also called attention to spurious down and feathers sometimes received with perfectly genuine eggs from America, and as an illustration exhibited two plaques of mounted feathers and down, which had been received by collectors as belonging to *B. albeola*; these were much too large, and had a white calamus instead of a grey one which he had found characteristic in the feathers of *B. albeola*. The spurious feathers and down mentioned probably belonged to *B. islandica*.

A clutch of twelve eggs taken by Mr. C. B. Horsbrugh was also exhibited. The eggs were found in a hollow stump 18 feet from the ground. On May 7th of the same year a clutch of six Saw-Whet Owls (*Nyctala*) was taken from the same hole.

THE ELEVENTH OOLOGICAL DINNER.

The Eleventh Oological Dinner took place at Pagani's Restaurant on Wednesday, January 18th, 1922. Dr. H. Langton took the Chair in the absence of Lord Rothschild.

The Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain exhibited :—

(*a*) Clutch of five eggs of Richard's Pipit (*Anthus richardi richardi*) from Mongolia. Although on the British list this bird does not breed to the west of the Ural Mountains, and authentic eggs are practically unknown in private collections in this country.

(*b*) A clutch of the blue type of the Tree-Pipit (*Anthus trivialis trivialis*) from Derbyshire.

(*c*) A clutch of eggs of the Ashy-headed Wagtail (*Motacilla flava cinereocapilla*) from a nest in a Salicornia bush growing in water. Taken in S. Spain.

(*d*) A set of four eggs of the Tawny Pipit (*Anthus campestris*) taken in Corsica.

The last three sets were taken personally by the exhibitor.

Mr. Edgar Chance exhibited :—

(*a*) A drawer containing forty-eight clutches of eggs of the Tree-Pipit. These were selected from his collection of about 500 self-taken sets, and included extreme forms of the recognized types as well as some very fine variety clutches.

Mr. Chance also showed five clutches taken from precisely the same nesting territory—two in 1916, two in 1917, and one in 1920,—the locality not being visited in 1918 or 1919.

The similarity in these eggs renders it practically certain they are the product of one female.

(*b*) A drawer containing forty clutches of the Pied, Grey, and Yellow Wagtails.

In one instance two Pied Wagtails, sharing the same nest, had laid five and four eggs respectively.

The series of Grey Wagtail included some rare phases—difficult to obtain in this species—and one clutch of seven, which, of course, is very exceptional.

Mr. Herbert Massey exhibited:—

(*a*) A series of twenty-four sets of Meadow-Pipit, including the very rare red form—a speckled set of four from Sweden.

(*b*) Forty-eight clutches of Tree-Pipit, showing the recognized types and some choice variety sets. Among the latter was a clutch of eight, believed to be unique.

(*c*) Tawny Pipit; six sets showing the known variations, including the rare erythristic form.

(*d*) Six clutches of the Red-throated Pipit.
Four „ „ Alpine Pipit.
Two „ „ American Pipit.

A fine series of these scarce eggs.

(*e*) Rock-Pipit; fifteen sets, showing great variation and including nine erythristic clutches, of which six were taken in Scotland and three in the south of England.

Also three sets of the Scandinavian subspecies, which occurs only on migration in this country.

Dr. W. Norman May exhibited seventeen clutches of the Calandra, Crested, and Short-toed Larks, and six sets of the Black-headed Wagtail; these included some choice specimens. They were taken at Salonika in 1918.

Mr. Percy Smythe showed twenty-five clutches of Tree-Pipit eggs from his collection, including some beautiful variety sets.

Mr. H. Kirke Swann exhibited the following raptorial eggs :—

Falco peregrinus anatum. Set of four eggs from California, May 6th, 1914.

Falco peregrinus pealei. Set of four eggs from Forrester Island, Alaska, May 3rd, 1920. Very dark eggs.

Falco peregrinus peregrinus. Set of three British eggs for comparison. Also one white egg taken in the Orkneys in 1868 by Dunn and stated to be a Goshawk's, but evidently a white Peregrine Falcon's. This egg had been through the collection of Colonel Hanbury Barclay and other collections.

Polyborus lutosus. An egg, probably the only one known, of this Carrion-Hawk, now extinct. It was taken on Guadeloupe Island, W. Mexico, April 17th, 1897.

Buteola brachyurus. Set of two eggs taken in Dade Co., Florida, March 27th, 1910. The nest was in a large cypress in 7 feet of swamp water, and the eggs were taken for three years in succession, when the tree was blown down in a storm and the birds left. This S. American species is very rare in Florida, and not many eggs exist in collections.

Buteo solitarius. Set of two eggs from the Hawaiian Islands, taken February 11th, 1921.

Dr. Ernst Hartert exhibited, on behalf of Lord Rothschild, who, to his regret, was unable to be present, the following eggs, and made remarks upon them :—

Rhamphocorys clot-bey, Algerian Sahara. These rare eggs, evidently not represented in any other British collection, were collected in 1913 and 1914. The clutches varied from one (rare) to four, and once one of five was taken.

Ammomanes dèserti algeriensis, Algerian Sahara.

Ammomanes phœnicura phœnicura, India.

Ammomanes phœnicura arenicolor, Algerian Sahara. Generally easily distinguished by smaller size and white ground-colour, but exceptionally resembled small *A. algeriensis*.

Alœmon alaudipes alaudipes, Algerian Sahara.

Alœmon alaudipes pallida, Mekran Coast. Eggs of the two forms evidently alike.

Eremophila alpestris alpestris, N. America.

Eremophila alpestris bilopha, Algerian Sahara. Very variable, differing from other Algerian Larks' eggs by their elongated form and often very finely-marked appearance, but rarely resembled eggs of *Ammomanes deserti algeriensis* and *Calandrella brachydactyla hermonensis*.

Eremophila alpestris bicornis, Libanon. Much larger than *E. a. bilopha*.

Eremophila alpestris elwesi, Tibet.

Melanocorypha sibirica. Several clutches from the S. Russian steppes.

Calandrella brachydactyla hermonensis, Algerian Sahara. This form of Short-toed Lark inhabits the Saharan and sub-Saharan regions from Marocco to Palestine.

Calandrella acutirostris tibetana, Tibet.

Chersophilus duponti duponti, Algerian Hauts Plateaux.

Chersophilus duponti margaritæ, Tunisian Sahara. (The parent birds were also shown.)

Mirafra alopex. Clutches from Gallaland. These eggs differed somewhat from other Larks' eggs, resembling somewhat those of Pipits.

Series of Yellow Wagtails from England,
Rock-Pipits from Ireland,
Tree-Pipits from England,
Anthus cervinus from Lapland, and
Anthus berthelotii berthelotii from Tenerife
were also exhibited.

Mr. Percy F. Bunyard exhibited the following eggs from his collection :—

Sky-Lark (*Alauda arvensis*). Thirty-four clutches, showing remarkable variation, including four from Orkney showing true erythrism (Brit. Birds, vol. vii. p. 249 ; 'Ibis,' Jan. 1918, p. 184), *c*/4 and *c*/2 leucitic eggs, *i.e.*, pure white unmarked, *c*/3 pure white with conspicuous underlying markings of pale ash-grey, *c*/4 remarkably small eggs, average measurements 21·3 × 14·9, weight 156 mg. ; heavily zoned and blotched eggs were well represented, two clutches of four were distinctly greenish.

Wood-Lark (*Lullula arborea*). A representative series on which Mr. Bunyard read the following paper, "A Comparative Study of the Eggs of the Wood-Lark (*Lullula arborea*) and Sky-Lark (*Alauda arvensis*) " :—

The earliest records of the discovery of the eggs of the Wood-Lark I find in 'Ootheca Wolleyana,' p. 384. Newton mentions eggs found in 1844 and 1846, though no locality is given. The earliest Suffolk record according to the same author was in 1853. Newton considered about this time it was "a comparatively recent colonist." It is now well established in Suffolk and Surrey.

Meyer figures the eggs in 'British Ornithology,' published 1846 (figs. 95), and also states that it was abundant in Surrey, though no mention is made of its having bred.

The egg figured by Hewitson is undoubtedly wrong. Bucknill apparently was only able to obtain meagre evidence of its having bred in the county ('Birds of Surrey,' p. 145). Mr. G. K. Baynes, Mr. Clifford Borrer, and myself discovered and recorded its breeding plentifully in Surrey (Brit. Birds, vol. xiii. p. 226).

I had previously several times seen and heard the birds, but did not trouble to search for nests, as my requirements had been completed in Suffolk.

I have never found the Sky-Lark (*A. arvensis*) breeding on the same ground as the Wood-Lark, though the two species may be found fairly near together. The situation

and ground on which the nest is placed are very characteristic of *L. arborea*; add to this the fact that the eggs are very distinctive and cannot possibly be confused with those of the Sky-Lark, and identification is made comparatively easy.

I exhibit twenty-five clutches of *L. arborea*, and thirty-four clutches of *A. arvensis* for comparison. There is not a clutch in either series which the trained eye could confuse. In the series of *A. arvensis* you will find practically every known form and variety.

The eggs of *L. arborea* run into three distinct forms; those with very fine mottlings which sometimes form zones or caps at the larger end I consider typical.

Form No. 2 have distinctly larger mottlings, of a warmer shade of reddish-brown, consequently the zones and caps are more conspicuous, and the general appearance is more strikingly handsome.

Form No. 3 (comparatively rare) have fairly large well-defined blotches, which also have a tendency to form zones and caps at the large ends.

In some cases there is great variation in the eggs of a single clutch, probably transition stage.

A few examples show well-defined underlying blotches of ash-grey. Compared with those of *A. arvensis* they are considerably smaller, the ground-colour is whiter and less concealed by the markings; the pigmentation is distinctly more rufous, and the formation of the mottlings finer on the average.

Compared with eggs belonging to the other members of the genus which do not breed in the British Isles, I find them closely allied to those of the Crested Lark, *G. cristata*, and certain forms of the Short-toed Lark, *C. brachydactyla*, though usually smaller than the former, and larger than the latter.

Average measurements (Rey's) :—*Alauda arvensis*, 24·1 × 16·8 mm. *Lullula arborea*, 20·7 × 15·5 mm.

Average weights (Rey's) :—182 mg. (100 eggs). 156 mg. (46 eggs).

Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*). Two typical clutches of five from Hungary.

Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella brachydactyla*). Two clutches of five and three of four eggs, all typical, from S. Russia and Montenegro.

White-winged Lark (*Melanocorypha sibirica*). Two typical clutches of five from S. Russia.

Black-Lark (*Melanocorypha yeltoniensis*). Three clutches of four from S. Russia, showing two distinct forms, *i. e.*, closely mottled and blotched; these closely resemble certain forms of *A. arvensis* in the arrangement and colour of the markings; they are, however, larger. Measurements: average twelve eggs, 25·4×17·3 mm.; weight 228 mg.

Shore-Lark (*Otocorys alpestris*). Two clutches of five, and five of four each, from Finland, Russian Kola, etc. On the whole, these eggs are rather distinctive; in shape they resemble those of *L. arborea*, colour distinctly ochraceous.

White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*). Ten clutches from Sadowa, Geneva, Saxony, etc. There are no distinguishing characteristics by which these could be separated with certainty from those of *M. lugubris*, though when a series of each is placed side by side, the former are, on the average, distinctly more brownish.

Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla lugubris*). A representative series embracing practically every known form and variety. Eggs with large superimposed markings were shown in this and the former series; also clutches distinctly capped, with the lower portion almost unmarked—*c*/5 with pure white ground rather boldly marked was exceptional.

Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla boarula*). A very beautiful series of twenty-five clutches showing great variation. Conspicuous among them was a clutch of six with leucitic tendency, a clutch of six distinctly erythristic, and a clutch of five very heavily zoned, probably unique. Clutches with well-defined superficial markings are a distinct break away from the type-eggs, which are usually finely mottled.

Yellow Wagtail (*M. raii*). A series of 20 clutches.

Leucitic eggs, and a tendency towards erythrism occurs in the eggs of this as well as the former species; they are, however, larger on the average, distinctly more brownish, and show less gloss.

Blue-headed Wagtail (*M. flava*). Four clutches of six and one of five; the latter, and one of the former, were taken in Kent, and are recorded in 'A History of the Birds of Kent,' Ticehurst, p. 96. Apparently the eggs of *M. flava* do not differ from those of *M. raii*. The male bird belonging to the clutch of six was also exhibited.

Grey-headed Wagtail (*M. flava thunbergi*). Nine clutches from S. Varangar and one clutch of six (erroneously recorded as five by Dr. Ticehurst) from Kent; first British record, Bulletin B. O. C. vol. xix. p. 23, 'A History of the Birds of Kent,' Ticehurst, p. 97. The clutches from Varangar are distinctly smaller on the average than those of *M. flava*, one of which is distinctly erythristic ('Ibis,' Jan. 1918, p. 185). The clutch from Kent is very distinctive and has a purplish tinge.

Mr. Bunyard also exhibited the male bird belonging to the Kentish clutch, and placed on record the fact that the female (which was also secured), together with the female belonging to the clutch of *M. flava*, were unfortunately pulled to pieces by a cat. Mr. T. P. Aldworth and the Rev. James R. Hale were at Mr. Bunyard's house at the time of the occurrence. The two males were also left on the table at the same time; fortunately, however, these escaped.

Black-headed Wagtail (*M. melanocephala* = *feldeg*). A clutch of four from Turkestan (taken by Rickbeil from Dresser), May 18th, 1905. These eggs resemble certain forms of *M. boarula*, the mottlings are well defined, and the greyish-white ground-colour is conspicuous.

Tree-Pipit (*Anthus trivialis*). A very beautiful series of 128 clutches, from which repetition had been carefully eliminated, representing practically every known form and variety. These were divided into eight distinct forms, seven of which are described in 'British Birds,' vol. ii. p. 335.

Form No. 4, however, has since been subdivided, as it was found that two distinct ground-colours occurred, *i. e.*, reddish and greyish. Form No. 3 could also be treated in the same way, *i. e.*, white and greenish ground.

Meadow-Pipit (*A. pratensis*). A series of twenty-five clutches, probably the most representative ever got together. Leucitic and erythristic eggs were shown, as were also heavily-capped and banded examples. Clutches with well-defined longitudinal mottlings somewhat resemble certain forms of type No. 5 of *A. trivialis* were conspicuous.

Red-throated Pipit (*A. cervinus*). Six clutches of six, and two of five, from S. Varangar; these do not materially differ from those of *A. pratensis*. The boldly-mottled examples, however, appear to predominate, and some show spots with penumbra, which is more characteristic of *A. trivialis*. In this small series the eggs are on the average larger than those of *A. pratensis*.

Tawny Pipit (*A. campestris*). Thirteen clutches, mostly from Turkestan and Rheinland; these are closely allied to certain forms of *M. alba* and *M. lugubris*; the markings, however, are sharper and bolder, with tendency to form caps. Some examples have rich brown markings, others are distinctly greyish in general appearance; they are also larger than those of the above-mentioned two species of *Motacilla*.

Water-Pipit (*A. spinoletta*). Three clutches of four, Hungary and Schlesien (Germany). These do not differ from eggs of *A. pretosus*. [illegible]

American Water-Pipit (*A. spinoletta rubescens*). Clutch of four from Labrador. These do not differ from those of typical *A. pratensis* eggs, though slightly larger.

Rock-Pipit (*A. pretosus*). Sixteen clutches; two of five each from Kincardine, showing true erythrism; 'Ibis,' Jan. 1917, p. 185.

The typical eggs do not show a very marked variation. The size appears to be very constant, and considerably larger on the average than those of *A. pratensis*. A clutch of five with pale green ground and very pale brown markings were conspicuous.

Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*). A series of twenty-five clutches showing great variation. Heavily blotched, finely speckled, and zoned eggs were represented; also one clutch of *seven* from Suffolk.

Red-rumped Swallow (*H. rufula*). A typical clutch from Thermopylæ, Greece (from Dresser).

Martin (*Delichon urbica*). A clutch of four from Herefordshire, with superficial and underlying markings of pale brown and ash-grey. Bulletin B. O. C. vol. xxxix. p. 58.

Sand-Martin (*Riparia riparia*). Four typical clutches of *six* and two of five.

The next Meeting of the B. O. C. will be held on Wednesday, the 8th of March, 1922, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, the Dinner at 7 p.m.

Members are reminded that at this Meeting, which will be held conjointly with the Annual Dinner of the B. O. U., they are allowed to bring Lady Guests.

Dr. A. F. R. Wollaston will give a short address illustrated with lantern-slides on the Birds met with during the Mount Everest Expedition.

Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker will read a short paper on "Cuckoos and their Eggs."

The Editor would be greatly obliged if those wishing to show slides would communicate with him at the Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, S.W. 7.

Members intending to dine are requested to inform the Hon. Sec., Mr. J. L. Bonhote, Park Hill House, Carshalton, Surrey.

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At the Oological Dinner to be held at Pagani's Restaurant on the 15th of March there will be a large series of Cuckoos'

eggs on exhibition from 5 p.m., and after the dinner, to which by the courtesy of the Oological Section all members of the B. O. U. and B. O. C. are invited, there will be a discussion on the points raised in Mr. Stuart Baker's paper on "Cuckoos and their Eggs." Those who intend to dine are particularly asked to advise Mr. C. Borrer, 1 Fleet Street, E.C.

(Signed)

W. L. Sclater,	Percy R. Lowe,	J. L. Bonhote,
Chairman.	*Editor.*	*Sec. & Treas.*

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCLXVII.

The two-hundred-and-sixty-fourth Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48, Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, March 8th, 1922, in conjunction with the Annual Dinner of the British Ornithologists' Union.

Chairman: W. L. Sclater, M.A.

Members present:—E. C. Stuart Baker; P. F. Bunyard; A. L. Butler; R. W. Chase; C. Chubb; Brig.-Gen. Goland V. Clarke; Dr. W. Eagle Clarke; Capt. H. L. Cochrane, R.N.; W. J. Fitzherbert-Brockholes; Lt.-Col. H. Delmé-Radcliffe; Dr. E. Hartert; Capt. E. G. Herbert; Capt. C. Ingram; T. Iredale; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain; N. B. Kinnear; Dr. H. Langton; Dr. G. C. Low; Dr. P. R. Lowe (*Editor*); N. S. Lucas; C. W. Mackworth-Praed; Lt.-Col. H. A. Magrath; G. M. Mathews; Col. & Mrs. Meinertzhagen; H. Munt; D. W. Musselwhite; T. H. Newman; C. Oldham; C. E. Pearson; A. E. Price; F. R. Ratcliff; R. H. Read; W. E. Renaut; C. B. Rickett; Lord Rothschild; D. Seth-Smith; Sir Malcolm C. C. Seton; Major A. G. L. Sladen; F. M. Smalley; H. Kirke Swann; G. C. Talbot-Ponsonby; Dr. C. B. Ticehurst; H. M. Wallis; H. F. Witherby.

Members of the B.O.U. :—Miss D. Bate ; Miss M. G. S. Best ; B. J. Bettington ; E. Bidwell ; Lt.-Col. H. Brocklebank ; Hon. G. L. Charteris ; Capt. H. S. Gladstone ; W. E. Glegg ; Dr. J. M. Harrison ; Capt. J. N. Kennedy ; Sir Thomas Lewis ; Mrs. Alice H. Murton ; E. Lort Phillips ; Capt. J. S. Reeve ; Dr. A. Landsborough Thompson ; C. G. Patten ; Mrs. Rose Haig Thomas ; Miss E. L. Turner ; Dr. A. H. Walker ; Capt. W. B. Incledon Webber ; T. Wells ; Dr. A. F. R. Wollaston.

Guests :—W. J. Adlard ; Mrs. Raymond Asquith ; S. Austen ; Mrs. E. C. Stuart Baker ; H. Balfour ; L. F. de Beaufort ; Mrs. A. Bourke ; L. Campbell ; G. Evans ; E. Gilroy ; N. Gilroy ; Sir H. H. Howorth ; Mrs. E. Lort Phillips ; Mrs. L. May ; C. F. Muirhead ; H. A. A. D'Ombrain ; Mrs. Reeve ; Mrs. Reginald McKenna ; Lady Lewis ; Miss Munt ; Mrs. Rabagliaté ; S. H. Ricardo ; Lady Seton ; Mrs. A. G. L. Sladen ; G. Stephens ; Mrs. L. Witherby.

Dr. A. F. R. Wollaston exhibited a series of fine lantern-slides from photographs taken during the Mt. Everest Expedition of 1921. He gave a most interesting description of the various types of country passed through from 9000 ft. in the Chumbi Valley to 22,400 ft. on Mt. Everest, mentioning some of the birds found in each region. Reference was made to the fascinating Alpine flora which was constantly conspicuous in the admirable slides exhibited.

A fuller account of the birds will be published in Mr. Kinnear's paper in 'The Ibis' for July.

Sir Thomas Lewis exhibited a series of beautiful slides of various sea-birds taken on a small island off the British Coast. The series included photographs of the Great Black-backed Gull, Puffins, Razor-Bills, Storm-Petrel, Common Terns, and Cormorants, all illustrating in an admirable manner various characteristic habits and methods of flight.

The Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain gave an interesting account of Bird-Life as met with on the recent expedition to Bear Island and Spitzbergen, and illustrated his remarks with a striking series of lantern-slides taken by various members of the expedition. In relation to the habits of the birds met with these slides were most instructive.

Mr. D. Seth-Smith had a remarkable series of slides depicting the breeding-habits of the Sacred Ibis as observed in the Gardens of the Zoological Society.

Lord Rothschild and Dr. Ernst Hartert sent the description of a new Racket-tailed Kingfisher from New Guinea :—

Tanysiptera danæ intensa, subsp. nov.

Differs from *T. danæ danæ* in deeper coloration generally. The red of underside and rump is much deeper, the under tail-coverts are pink, not buff with a faint pink tinge; the brown of the upperside is, as a rule, darker, the quills darker, more black; generally the blue on the wing-coverts is a faint shade darker, but this is not always distinct. Dimensions and colours of soft parts as in *T. danæ danæ*.

Hab. Hydrographer Range, west of Dyke Acland Bay, S.E. New Guinea, 2500 feet.

Type, in Tring Museum, ♂, 20. iv. 1918. Eichhorn Bros. coll. no. 7894.

At the Oological Dinner to be held at Pagani's Restaurant on the 15th of March there will be a large series of Cuckoos' eggs on exhibition from 5 p.m., and after the dinner, to which by the courtesy of the Oological Club all members of the B. O. U. and B. O. C. are invited, there will be a discussion on the points raised in Mr. Stuart Baker's paper on "Cuckoos—some Theories about the Birds and their Eggs." Those who intend to dine are particularly requested to advise Mr. C. Borrer at 1 Fleet Street, E.C.

CUCKOOS.

Some theories about the birds and their eggs.

In spite of the interest which has always been taken in Cuckoos and their habits, there are yet many points which are unsolved or only partly solved, and others concerning which there is still much controversy. Of late Cuckoo observers have been much more methodical and scientific in their observations, and well in the forefront of these observers stands Mr. Edgar Chance, with whose wonderful work I think we are all well acquainted. But even his work leaves a wide field of other work open and inviting our attention. We must remember, as Mr. Chance himself has justly pointed out, that his observations have been carried out upon *one* Cuckoo. It is true that this very fact has added to the value of his deductions in some respects, but one cannot draw general deductions from one bird, nor can we say *for certain* that each individual Cuckoo would behave in the same way under different circumstances.

Some of the points which I would like to refer to to-night are as follows :—

1. Do Cuckoos return yearly to the same breeding-ground?
2. Do Cuckoos invariably deposit their eggs in the nest of the same species of foster-parent?
3. Do Cuckoos ever share the same breeding or egg-laying area?
4. How many eggs do Cuckoos lay in a season?
5. At what intervals do Cuckoos lay?
6. How do Cuckoos deposit their eggs in other birds' nests?
7. How many, if any, of the fosterer's eggs do Cuckoos take?
8. What does the Cuckoo do with the stolen eggs?

1. Do Cuckoos return yearly to the same breeding-ground?

In reply to the first question we may now, without hesitation, say that Cuckoos do return year after year to the same area, whether this be to a small and restricted area as in the case of Messrs. Chance's, Scholey's, and Owen's birds, or whether it be some very much larger area, as happens with some of our Indian and Australian Cuckoos both migratory and resident. In the latter case the word "return" is, perhaps, hardly applicable, but even resident species of Cuckoo wander greatly in the non-breeding season, whilst, once they have started breeding, the ground they cover is, as a rule, much more circumscribed. It is, therefore, unnecessary to discriminate between them. Instances of such return are now almost innumerable, and really all that it seems necessary for me to say is that, in so far as our Indian Cuckoos are concerned, they certainly show an attachment to their breeding-ground similar to that displayed by *Cuculus canorus canorus*. This I have been able to personally prove in regard to *C. c. bakeri*, *Clamator coromandus* and *C. jacobinus*, *Cacomantis merulinus* and *C. passerinus*, and *Hierococcyx sparveroides*. True, I have never been able to identify the bird other than by the eggs, but this identification will probably be accepted in most species as sufficing for the purpose. I have not amongst my exhibits to-night brought much to show especially this trait, but I would refer you to the series of Cuckoos taken three years running by Mr. Scholey in the nests of *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*, and of which you will find a fourth year's eggs in Mr. Chance's series. Again, if you examine the collection made by Dr. Williams, of Hereford, you will find year after year the same bird returning and laying in the surroundings of the same village—in some instances their returns covering over 10 years. These eggs are in Boxes 1, 2, and 3 of my exhibit, which show eggs laid in the nests of Wagtails, Robins, and Hedge-Sparrows respectively. As regards Indian Cuckoos, you will find similar occurrences amongst the eggs of nearly all the genera and species exhibited.

2. **Do Cuckoos invariably deposit their eggs in the nest of the same species of foster-parent?**

The answer to this will also be in the affirmative, for we may now accept it as proved that Cuckoos do *normally* always select the same species of fosterer for their eggs; at the same time we must be careful to remember that all Cuckoos have not had the same care and forethought bestowed upon them that Mr. Chance's Cuckoo had. Many Cuckoos meet with difficulties which were smoothed away for his bird. Even in this case, however, we find that on one occasion when there was no Meadow-Pipit's nest available, she laid in a Tree-Pipit's, and on another occasion was so hard pressed that she actually deposited an egg in one made by human hands. Now, no one will contend that a bird of the intelligence displayed by Mr. Chance's Cuckoo (an intelligence probably common to all Cuckoos) could ever have been deceived into believing such to be a Meadow-Pipit's self-made nest. Under ordinary circumstances, it must often happen that a Cuckoo can find no nest of its normal fosterer within its own special area. Two solutions only are then possible: it must leave this area and hunt for a nest of the fosterer elsewhere, or it must be content to deposit its egg in some other bird's nest. The latter is, I think, the usual, but not the invariable, course adopted.

Referring to the eggs taken by Mr. Scholey (Box. No. 5), you will see that in one case the Cuckoo placed her first two eggs in the nests of Hedge-Sparrows, built practically on the same ground as that she covered for Reed-Warblers' nests, whilst the remaining five found that year were all in the latter birds' nests. The following year, 1920, all 13 eggs were taken from Reed-Warblers' nests, as were the still larger number taken in 1921. Another Cuckoo, on an adjacent ground, we find putting her first egg in the nest of a Yellow-Hammer and her second in that of a Meadow-Pipit. In yet another case we have eggs of a third Cuckoo placed the same year in the nests of a Sedge-Warbler, of a Linnet, and, finally, in a Reed-Warbler's, all three nests being close together. After the third egg was deposited, this Cuckoo seems to have been driven away by another, the latter

depositing one egg in the same Reed-Warbler's nest and a later one in a Pipit's. In all these instances the true fosterers were Reed-Warblers, and the eggs were undoubtedly laid in other birds' nests because there were no nests of the former available.

This habit is emphasized if one refers to some of my series of Indian Cuckoos. For instance, the most common fosterers in Eastern India for *Cuculus canorus bakeri* are the little Warblers *Cisticola cursitans*, the Brown Hill-Warblers of the genus *Suya*, and the Pipits *Anthus rufulus* and *Anthus striolatus*. The former two genera are extraordinarily common, and many nests are built within a small area. In Box No. 18 are shown series of Cuckoo eggs taken with these foster-parents, and in the first series of 14 eggs, all taken within a very small radius of my garden in Shillong, only two eggs were found in other fosterers' nests, these being the 10th in the nest of *Cisticola tytleri*, possibly mistaken by the Cuckoo for that of *C. c. cursitans*, and the last in the nest of *Suya crinigera*, possibly because the nests of *Cisticola* were exhausted in that special area. Here undoubtedly we have the Cuckoo placing her eggs in another foster-parent's nest rather than trouble to search for her own special fosterer, though numerous nests of these were close at hand.

The series laid in the nests of *Suya* are small, but it is interesting to note that in all these series the nests of *Suya crinigera* and *Suya khasiana* are made use of quite indiscriminately.

When we come to the Pipits (Box No. 17), the Cuckoos seem to adopt quite different tactics. Both the Pipits, more especially *A. striolatus*, breed in rather restricted patches and in small numbers on ridges and crests of hills, so apparently the Cuckoos exhaust the few nests there are in one place and then go elsewhere in search of new ground.

The two blotched red eggs shown in the same box laid by another bird are interesting, as one of the fosterers is a Babbler, *Pellorneum mandellii*, and the other is a Pipit. The first nest was built in scrub and bracken on the ground at the edge of forest. The second was about twenty yards

away on short coarse grass in the open. But the two fosterers, though so widely different really, are very alike superficially, and both build ground-nests of grass. Was the Cuckoo deceived by this close resemblance? I think not.

Of the other series shown of this species of Cuckoo we have one placed in the nests of the extremely common Verditer Flycatcher, and no doubt there may have been many nests we failed to find, for they are extremely well hidden and sometimes in inaccessible places. The others, however, are taken from the nests of the much less common *Trochiloides harterti*, a little bird whose nest is always given away by the parents' behaviour, so that it can be found directly the birds are seen. All three were taken on the same stretch of hill-side, on mossy banks in Pine forest, and there were certainly no other nests of this bird there. Nor were any more eggs of this Cuckoo found that year either in that area or in any other. Did this Cuckoo only lay three eggs or, having no more fosterers available in that place, did she go elsewhere?

An interesting box is No. 36, which shows series of eggs of *Clamator coromandus*. Now the normal foster-parents of this Cuckoo are the very common *Garrulax moniliger* and *G. pectoralis* in N.E. India, and the equally common *Grammatoptila striata* in N.W. India. All lay blue eggs, much the same in colour as that of the Cuckoo. Series, however, are very difficult to follow up, as many individuals of this species of Cuckoo breed in the same area; two, three, or even more, may place their eggs in the same nest, and the bird itself is, in places, extremely common, and as the eggs are all blue, the ownership is often hard to determine. The series shown were, however, taken in small areas where only one pair of Cuckoos were observed, and the eggs *appear* to be laid by the same mother. Even here we see that in all three instances nests of other, though closely allied, birds have been employed as fosterers, whilst in some nests more than one egg of the Cuckoo has been deposited.

In each of the first two series a nest of *Garrulax gularis* has been made use of, and in the third case one of *Dryonastes ruficollis*.

Other boxes show that amongst all Cuckoos we occasionally find eggs deposited in the nests of birds which can, under no circumstances, be considered in any way normal fosterers, and these can only have been so deposited because there was no nest of the proper fosterer available at the time the egg was laid.

Again, in some instances we see eggs deposited in the nests of birds which could never have reared the young Cuckoo, and in yet others the eggs are deposited in nests from which the young could never have extricated themselves. Amongst the latter may be mentioned that of *Abrornis* in hollow bamboos, and those of some of the *Phylloscopi*, which breed in hollow trees with tiny entrances.

But there is amongst the Cuculidæ an immense amount of variation in the number of birds selected as foster-parents, and wideness of selection is probably coincident with the age of the form of Cuckoo. In the oldest forms we shall find the selection very much restricted and resemblance perfected, in the intermediate genera and species the range of fosterers wider and the resemblance between the eggs of the foster-parent and those of the Cuckoo less advanced, and in the most recent forms we shall find the greatest range of selection and the least resemblance existing. This I propose to enlarge on later on, in dealing with other points. Here I would merely draw your attention to the fact that birds of the *Clamator* group (Boxes Nos. 34 to 37) have very few fosterers, and to these few they rigidly adhere ; birds of the genus *Hierococcyx* (Boxes Nos. 26 to 30) have but few normal fosterers, and to these they keep in some cases rigidly, in others fairly regularly, the former when the foster-parents are very common, the latter when the foster-parents are less numerous. Thus *H. varius* practically never places its eggs in any nests except those of Babblers of the extremely common genera *Argya* and *Turdoides*, whilst *H. sparveroides* generally places its brown egg in the nests of *Arachnothera magna* and *Drymochares nepalensis*, which are fairly common, only.

From the above, I think we may accept it as proved that Cuckoos generically, specifically, and individually select—and, under normal conditions, keep to—one particular fosterer. But it also seems evident that, when no nest of that particular fosterer is available, she will place her egg in some other bird's nest, preferably in one of a species closely allied to the fosterer, but, in an emergency, in any bird's nest within her special breeding-area. As to whether she sometimes leaves her own area to hunt for a nest of her own special fosterer elsewhere is not so definitely proved. Personally, I think she does, and I would draw your attention to the exhibits of the Khasia Hills Cuckoos' eggs with *Cisticola*, *Suya*, *Anthus*, etc. (Boxes Nos. 10 to 12). Here you will find several specimens of eggs of very unusual character and evidently laid by the same bird, though these eggs were deposited far apart from one another. Again, you will remember that Mr. Chance's Cuckoo, in the gaps in her laying within the watched area, was not seen about the ground. Obviously she was elsewhere, and possibly she was elsewhere for this very purpose.

3. Do Cuckoos ever share the same breeding or egg-laying area?

In regard to this, I have no personal doubt but that they frequently do so, though the different Cuckoos may impose upon different species of birds.

Dr. Williams, to whom I have already referred, has many instances of eggs of two, three, or more Cuckoos being found within the same area, but deposited in the nests of different foster-parents.

Mr. Owen, whose most beautiful series of five eggs from the nests of Hedge-Sparrows are exhibited in Box No. 3, informs me that these were found over a considerable area in which one, if not two, other Cuckoos were also laying. The series consisted of several more eggs than we have shown, but these were dispersed before the remaining five were so kindly given to me.

If you examine Boxes No. 40 to 42 you will find eggs of two or three different individual Cuckoos in the same clutch, and I have personally frequently seen two or more *Eudynamis* working not only the same area, but the same tree. For instance, in my own garden in Dacca, there were about a dozen large Mango-trees, and in these trees perhaps 20 or 30 Crows' (*Corvus s. splendens*) nests, and in these nests the eggs of at least four different Koels.

The answer to this question seems to be: "Where Cuckoos are not common they do not share breeding-areas, but, where they are at all numerous, two or even several Cuckoos may be found sharing the same.

4. How many eggs do Cuckoos lay in a season?

I believe that some Cuckoos lay a great many eggs, possibly any number between a dozen and twenty. .

In proof of this we have Mr. Chance's, Scholey's, and my own series of fourteen upwards. But I also think that, as in other families, so in the Cuculidæ, one genus may lay more than another, and even one species more than another species. Thus *Cuculus canorus*, *Clamator coramandus*, *C. jacobinus*, and *Hierococcyx varius* would appear to be extraordinarily prolific, whilst *Cuculus optatus*, *C. intermedius*, and *Hierococcyx nisicolor* cannot lay nearly as many eggs. Again, if we consider the beautiful little Cuckoos of the genus *Chalcococcyx*, it would seem incredible that they should normally be able to find sufficient nests of the rare Sun-birds, which they victimize to enable them to provide homes for more than a few of their eggs.

5. At what intervals do Cuckoos lay?

As regards *Cuculus canorus*, Mr. Chance has fully answered the question, and all my series of this species endorse what he has said and written. It is true that my eggs have not been taken with the extraordinary regularity with which Mr. Chance obtained his, but the dates on which the first and last eggs have been taken, when considered in

relation to the condition of the eggs themselves, prove that they average out at one every other day. Mr. Scholey seems to think that in 1921 one of his Cuckoos laid on every third day only, but he proved to his own and my satisfaction that this same individual laid every alternate day in 1919 and 1920, so that his more recent alleged discoveries hardly affect the matter. The same appears to hold good with *Clamator*, *Eudynamis*, and other species of *Cuculus* and *Hierococcyx*. We have not much evidence as to the smaller Cuckoos, but what little we have would rather prove that *Chalcococcyx*, *Chrysococcyx*, *Surniculus*, *Cacomantis*, and other small Cuckoos lay every day. This, however, is perhaps much what we should expect. Two eggs of *Cacomantis* laid by the same bird and taken by myself were laid on consecutive days. Some of the eggs of *Cacomantis passerinus* taken by Professor K. Burnett in Hyderabad seem also to have been laid on consecutive days, and the same applies to eggs of *Chalcococcyx maculatus* taken by Messrs. Chas. M. Inglis and A. M. Primrose in Goalpara. Probably the answer to our fifth question is, roughly—The bigger Cuckoos lay on alternate days, the smaller every day.

6. **How do Cuckoos deposit their eggs in other birds' nests?**

There is no doubt that in the vast majority of cases the egg is laid by the Cuckoo elsewhere, and deposited by means of the bill in the foster-parent's nest. I exhibit paintings of nests of some species of birds in which Cuckoos' eggs are deposited. Now, it is obvious that the Cuckoo (*C. canorus*) could not *sit* in these nests, and that the only way in which they could possibly be placed therein would be by the bill. But it is not necessary to go to India for examples of nests of this nature, for frequently the nests of Wrens, and occasionally nests of Chiff-chaffs, Willow-Wrens, and other birds have had Cuckoos' eggs deposited in them without any damage having been done either to their external structure or to their small entrances. Col. Rattray, in the Murree Hills, took Cuckoos' eggs placed in nests of *Phylloscopus*

occipitalis in amongst the roots of a fallen tree, in which it was only by a struggle and the loss of many neck-feathers that the Cuckoo succeeded in getting even her head to the nest. I have twice taken eggs (see Box No. 13) from the nests of *Abrornis* in which not only was it impossible for the Cuckoo to insert more than her head, but from which the young Cuckoo, when hatched, could never have made an exit. Captain Bates and Mr. Livesay in Kashmir took an egg of *Cuculus poliocephalus* from the nest of a Warbler built in a deserted Pigmy Woodpecker's hole. In this the Cuckoo could not even insert her head, but had dropped her own egg down the slope inside, cracking one of the eggs of the Warbler in so doing.

The general impression received from Mr. Chance's beautiful film of our English Cuckoo seems to be that this particular Cuckoo laid her eggs directly into the Pipit's nest. Further careful consideration of these pictures and of Mr. Chance's recorded observations make me think this impression is erroneous. In the first place, the Cuckoo is never more than a few seconds on the nest and, from what we know of other birds, oviposition takes much longer than this ; again, on one occasion the Cuckoo was frightened away for half an hour, after which she returned and deposited her egg in the Pipit's nest. Now I cannot understand an egg being retained for half an hour *after* it was due to be laid. Fright might accelerate the laying of an egg, and all of us must have seen many instances of this ; but I know of no instance of retarded production under such circumstances. Again, Mr. Chance's pictures show that though his Cuckoos seem to get their breasts and foreparts well *into* the nest, the other end is right up against, or actually projects over, the edge of the nest, and I doubt if an egg so laid would not fall out rather than into the nest. I was much puzzled over this until I watched the photo of the first Cuckoo, which comes down and stands a few seconds outside the nest. This bird obviously has something in her gullet sufficient to distend it and make the feathers all stick out. This something is in all probability her own egg. When she comes out the other

bird's egg is visible in the bill, and her throat is relaxed and the feathers lie flat. Again, we should consider what are the Cuckoo's motions in the nest, so far as can be judged by the films. She gets into the nest as speedily as possible, and at once bends down her head under her body. My own idea is that she now regurgitates and deposits her own egg in the nest, takes up one of the foster-parent's eggs in her bill, and flies off.

Mr. Charles Inglis and I myself have both been fortunate enough to see *Clamator jacobinus* place her own egg in the nest of *Turdoides terricolor*. In neither case did the bird get into the nest, but leant right over it, and when she flew off in each case the egg of the fosterer was visible in the Cuckoo's bill, though in neither case could we detect any sign of the egg in the Cuckoo's bill when she came up. In the case in which I saw the operation performed, the Cuckoo dropped down on the grass just a few yards in front of me and with her back towards me, put her head right down, heaved, and then flew up to the Babbler's nest, whence she took an egg and returned to the ground, and again back at once to the nest, having apparently exchanged the Babbler's for her own egg, for when I went up to the nest, there was the Cuckoo's egg on the top of three of the Babbler's and the fourth was lying on the ground broken—smashed, I think, by the bird, startled by suddenly catching sight of me. This idea of regurgitating the egg struck me when I saw the part of Mr. Chance's film showing the parents feeding their young. In this the male regurgitates twice and brings up insects which he passes over to the female, yet the swelling in the gullet is not noticeable, but the head and shoulder action of the male is exactly like that of the female Cuckoo on the nest. To this question, as to how the female Cuckoo deposits her egg in another bird's nest, I would, therefore, venture to suggest that she does so with her bill, carrying the egg in her gullet until such time as she thinks appropriate for the job, when she flies down to the nest, regurgitates, drops the egg in, and flies off, generally taking one of the fosterer's in exchange.

7. **How many, if any, of the fosterer's eggs do Cuckoos take?**

There is now ample evidence that the Cuckoo invariably takes one egg of the foster-parent in exchange for her own, but when there is only one of the former I think she generally leaves it. I have had at least a dozen instances within my own knowledge of this occurring, and it is probably the rule and may sometimes extend to instances in which there are only two fosterer's eggs in the nest when the Cuckoo deposits her own. Mr. Scholey's remarks as to this bird's habits in this respect are worth noting, for he records the fact that time after time he has found two eggs taken from a Reed-Warbler's nest in exchange for the one of the Cuckoo's placed therein. In a letter to me he writes that he finds that when the foster-parent is a small bird the Cuckoo takes two eggs, but in the larger birds, such as Buntings, Accentors, etc., they take but one.

8. **What does the Cuckoo do with the stolen egg?**

The strong probability is that she eats it. No one has found any remains of a stolen egg, unless the Cuckoo has been suddenly startled with it in her possession.

The above are a few only of the questions often asked, but to me the most absorbing interest lies in the question—

To what extent is adaptation being evolved in Cuckoos' eggs?

I have already written so much about this that my only excuse for writing more is that probably no one here has ever read my previous effusions. My theory is that amongst Cuckoos we have various forms of birds which differ greatly in the stage of evolution they have themselves reached. In some genera, such as *Clamator*, we have species extending as more or less resident birds over much of Europe, Asia, and Africa which appear to be amongst the oldest forms, and which have been parasitic for sufficient thousands—or it may be millions—of generations to have had evolved for them an egg so suitable to their purposes that any other kind of egg is unnecessary and abnormal. On the other hand, in the genus *Cuculus* we find various degrees of evolution. Thus the little Himalayan Cuckoo has now two very distinct types

of eggs suitable for very different types of fosterer which are admirable for their purpose, yet, on the other hand, we have the Common English Cuckoo parasitic on a very large number of birds and with no very striking type of egg.

I hope, and indeed believe, that the series I will show on the 15th prox. will prove that evolution in the Cuckoo's egg is beyond dispute, and that in some cases it is practically completed, in others far advanced, in some backward, and in a few very incomplete. Complete evolution has to be complete in two ways: first, the Cuckoo must have learnt to cuckold a restricted class of fosterer, and, secondly, the type of egg evolved must be of such a nature as to simulate the one or more types of fosterers' eggs with which it has to be deposited. The two are, of course, entirely interdependent, and undoubtedly the evolution of all Cuckoos' eggs proceeds by the foster-parents refusing to hatch those eggs which are least like their own. In this way those strains of Cuckoos which lay the most unsuitable eggs are gradually eliminated, and this process continues until a stable type, or types, of eggs are produced which are sufficiently like those of the selected fosterer to defy normal detection.

Foremost, as examples of complete evolution, I would draw your attention to the following:—

Clamator jacobinus. The normal foster-parent of this Cuckoo is any Babbler of the genera *Turdoides* and *Argya*, the species or race of these varying according to the locality. But all alike lay blue eggs of almost exactly the same shade of blue as that of the Cuckoo's egg; indeed, it is often hard for a collector to tell, by looks alone, a bright egg of the Cuckoo from a dull one of the Babbler. So common is this Cuckoo over many parts of India that we often see two or more of their eggs in the same nest, and in one set exhibited there are six Cuckoos' eggs and three Babblers', and you will see that those of the Cuckoos are plainly laid by fewer than three birds. Perhaps it is due to its being so common and the evolution of its eggs so complete that this Cuckoo, usually a bird of the plains, is now widening its field and visiting mountainous country in which its normal fosterers

are not found. Even here, however, it has been long enough to have learnt to use the nests of *Garrulax meniliger* and *pectoralis*, whose eggs only differ in size and shape from their own. Above three thousand feet it is out of its element altogether and lays its eggs here, there, and everywhere, and it is, therefore, improbable that it will ever become numerous enough at higher elevations to render evolution of a new egg necessary. It is curious to note that many of its eggs, when laid in nests with eggs crudely contrasting with its own, are deserted, as in the specimens shown of *Garrulax leucolophus*, *Lanius nigriceps*, etc.

Equally common and working on similar lines are *Clamator coromandus* and *Hierococcyx varius*. The former is a bird of the low hills up to some 4000 feet, and it cuckolds with the greatest regularity the species *Garrulax moniliger* and *pectoralis* and *Grammatophila striata*, and in the higher hills such birds as *Trochalopterum squamatum*, *T. chrysopterum*, etc. Here, again, you will see two sets of six eggs shown, one of which looks as if all were laid by the same bird, whilst in the other at least three parents have had a share in the production.

Hierococcyx varius cuckolds the same birds and has the same habits as *Clamator jacobinus*, and, but for their breeding-seasons being at somewhat different seasons, it would generally be impossible to say what eggs belonged to which Cuckoo when in the nests. In blowing one can tell, as the yolks of the two eggs differ in colour.

Yet another Cuckoo with a completed evolution, in so far as its egg is concerned, is the common Indian Koel. This bird has selected that arrant wit and humorist, the House-Crow, as its special victim with its more plebeian and less intelligent Jungle-cousin as second string. The Koel sets all Cuckoo laws in defiance : many birds breed in the same area and even in the same tree ; many deposit their eggs in the same nest, and as many as 11 have been taken together. There is no rule as to turning out a host's egg in exchange, and there are few seasons when the Koel will not lay and be objectionably noisy over it. In the rare

places where Crows are not available, the Koel will use the nests of Magpies, but for these no further evolution is required, and the only abnormal fosterer I have seen is one Myna, and this bird always deserted her nest immediately the Cuckoo's egg was therein.

So much for evolution, which has eliminated all but one permament type, which never varies more, if as much, as most eggs vary. But there is another form of evolution going on which is creating more than one type of egg for the same species. Amongst the most notable of these are *Cuculus poliocephalus* and *Hierococcyx sparveroides* (Boxes Nos. 22 and 26). The first has evolved eggs either pure white or bright terra-cotta in colour, whilst the second has its eggs either olive-brown or pure pale blue, and in this latter species also we have, what I have seen in no other Cuckoo's oology, eggs of two sizes, the blue eggs averaging ever so much bigger than the brown.

When we study the reasons for this dual evolution, they are at once self-evident. To take the case of *Cuculus poliocephalus* first (Box No. 22). In Japan the little Himalayan Cuckoo deposits her eggs in the nest of *Cettia*, and the eggs of the two agree beautifully in colour, both being terra-cotta. In Assam birds of the genus *Horornis* are common, and, as they lay chocolate-coloured eggs, the terra-cotta ones do for them also. *Phylloscopi* and other suitable fosterers laying white eggs are rare, so we have no white Cuckoos' eggs. When, however, we get to the Western Himalayas there is a change. *Horornis* still exists, and another suitable but rare fosterer with red eggs is *Oligura*, but for every nest of these birds there are dozens of *Phylloscopi*, which lay eggs either pure white or white with a few specks and spots of reddish. The red type of Cuckoo's egg has not ceased to exist, but the dominant type here is the white egg, whilst in the extreme North-West the white type alone is found. As might be expected, however, where the two types are both found, we often find most startling contrasts. The darkest egg in my collection (Box No. 22) is one taken from the nest of *Phylloscopus* by Mr. Whymper

in the Garhwal Hills, but here *Horornis fortipes* was common, and undoubtedly that bird's nest should have been the recipient of this egg. In Darjeeling white eggs have been taken in the nests of *Oligura* and red eggs in the nests of *Drymochares cruralis* which lays white eggs, but the dominant fact remains that East and West you have two different types, red and white, which both agree almost perfectly with the eggs of the fosterer selected, whilst in the centre of the habitat of this Cuckoo you have the two types overlapping.

With *Hierococcyx sparveroides* the conditions are rather different. The olive-brown type of egg (Box No. 26) is apparently found only in the Hills of Assam south of the Brahmapootra, whilst the blue egg is found west to the Western Himalayas, and again east to Yunnan and the Hills of Central Burma. It would appear as if the reason for this was the fact that in these hills the original Cuckoos of this species selected nests of *Arachnothera magna* and *Drymochares nepalensis*, both birds which lay olive-brown eggs, and so by degrees all other types of eggs have been gradually eliminated, except a few blue egg-laying Cuckoos which encroach from time to time from North, West, or East. The blue type of egg, which is obtained in the greatest numbers in North-East Burma, is nearly always laid in the nests of those species of *Garrulax* which lay blue eggs, the only normal exceptions being *Myiophoneus temmincki*, a large Thrush which lays eggs exactly like those of the English Blackbird, but larger and paler. Possibly because the two brown egg-laying fosterers are not nearly as common as the blue egg-laying ones are, we find comparatively a large number of abnormal fosterers accepted by this species of Cuckoo.

I have so far given examples of more or less completed evolution, in the first place resulting in a single type of egg, in the second in two perfectly different types. If we turn to the eggs of the birds of the genus *Cacomantis* we find yet a third phase of evolution. The normal eggs of these little Cuckoos are shown in Boxes No. 23 and 24 and may be called

dimorphic. In ground-colour they are pale blue or pure white, and they have spots, freckles, or small blotches, varying a good deal in number, size, and depth of colour. They are parasitic on small birds of the genera *Suya*, *Cisticola*, *Orthotomus*, *Franklinia*, etc., and all these birds lay eggs which are polymorphic. At present we do not know enough to be able to decide whether the Cuckoos have had evolved for them dimorphic eggs so as to give a fair chance of a certain proportion finding a home in a suitable nest, or whether the fosterers have become polymorphic in their egg-laying in order that they may have an average chance of discriminating between their own and the stranger's egg, and so allowing a sufficient percentage of their offspring to survive and carry on the race. Swynnerton's remarks on this subject in 'The Ibis' for 1914 are most interesting. In Box No. 25 we may have the key to this question, for there is here exhibited the most wonderful elimination of the unfit egg in favour of the Cuckoo. In Hyderabad, Deccan, the most common form of small bird suitable as a fosterer for *Cacomantis* is *Prinia socialis*, which lays bright brick-red eggs. By the process of elimination a red egg has been evolved for the Cuckoo which agrees sufficiently well with that of the *Prinia* to ensure a sufficient number being accepted and reared by that bird. In this box are shown two series—one belonging to Professor Burnett of the Hyderabad College and lent to me for this occasion, and the second mostly collected by that gentleman and Col. Sparrow and given to me. These show *almost* all grades of colour from the typical white and blue eggs to the absolutely atypical red form. You will see that there is a distinct gap between the ordinary blue and white eggs and those most like them amongst the red eggs. This would seem to imply that the total destruction of the least protectively coloured eggs has already gone a long way, although many generations will still have to come and go before the red *Cacomantis* egg has arrived at the permanent and perfect stage acquired by the eggs of *Clamator jacobinus*, etc. It is interesting to know that this little Cuckoo also

gives us a partial answer to our question, "Do Cuckoos always return to the same area?"—for it is quite certain that in this particular instance she does not. Mr. Burnett in a letter to me writes:—"It is not always easy to find these Cuckoos' eggs, although the birds are so numerous. *Prinia* wanders about in the most extraordinary way: one year they haunt the gardens and compounds, another year the outskirts of the railway cantonments, and another year somewhere else. Where the Warblers go, the Cuckoos must follow."

I can only briefly refer to other Cuckoos which are still in the initial stage of evolution and of which we may take *Cuculus canorus* and its geographical races as typical. Here we find that in England evolution has so far only produced a nondescript kind of egg which goes quite well with the eggs of Pipits, Wagtails, Reed-Warblers, etc., less well with Robins, and in startling contrast with those of the Accentor. But even in these we see some adaptation going on. The eggs of Cuckoos laid with Wagtails (Box No. 1) seem paler and more spotted than are those deposited with Pipits and Reed-Warblers (Boxes Nos. 2 & 4), and amongst the Hedge-Sparrows we find Mr. Owen's series of five eggs showing a distinctly blue tinge. When we examine Continental eggs, we find adaptation to many fosterers such as *Acrocephalus* and others much more advanced, and in Finland we find an undoubted blue egg very frequently deposited in the nests of *Phœnicurus*, *Œnanthe*, etc. In India our birds have advanced yet a shade further. The majority of eggs we get in the nests of *Cisticola* differ from that of that bird only in size. With the Pipits we nearly always find a dark reddish egg, whilst with the Suyas we generally get a blotchy red type often much like that of the foster-parent. In North-West India we get many blue Cuckoos' eggs in the nests of *Trochalopterum lineatum* and *Larvivora brunnea*. *Cuculus micropterus* (Box No. 20) has gone a stage further still, and, as far as we know at present, lays blue eggs only, and these normally in the nests of birds which also lay blue eggs; finally, *Cuculus saturatus* (Box

No. 21), never lays anything but white eggs with a few tiny black specks, well adapted to go with the eggs of the various *Phylloscopi* upon which she is parasitic.

Space and time have allowed me to do little more than refer to points without being able to marshal facts in support of my arguments. Not one in ten of the matters of interest in regard to Cuckoos has been dealt with, whilst evolution, the greatest of all, has only been touched upon. As a basis of discussion it may suffice, but there will be more food for thought in any one box of the Cuckoos' eggs I hope to exhibit on the 15th prox. than in the whole of the words I have let loose to-night.

For reference I add a list of the boxes and their contents :—

Box 1. *Cuculus c. canorus* with Wagtail. (34.)
" 2. " " " " Robin. (35.)
" 3. " " " " Hedge-Sparrow. (41.)
" 4. " " " " Reed-Warbler. (24.)
" 5. " " " " Series of Reed-Warblers, etc. (40.)
" 6. " " " " Pipits and odd Finches. (33.)
" 7. " " " " odd Warblers. (31.)
" 8. " " " " odd lot of unusual fosterers. (33.)
" 9. " " *telephonus* with various. (32.)
" 10. " " *bakeri* " *Cisticola c. cursitans.* (72.)
" 11. " " " " *Suya khasiana* and *S. crinigera.* (50.)
" 12. " " " " *Anthus rufulus rufulus* and *A. r. stridatus.* (41.)
" 13. " " " " Warblers, not usual fosterers. (41.)
" 14. " " " " Flycatchers and a few others. (39.)
" 15. " " " " Shrikes (normal), *Timeliidæ* (abnormal). (42.)
" 16. " " " " *Timeliidæ* (abnormal). (48.)
" 17. " " " " *Turdidæ* (mostly abnormal.) (40.)
" 18. " " " " series of Pipits, *Stoparola melanops*, and *Phylloscopus.* (22.)
" 19. " " " " series of *Cisticola* and *Suya.* (32.)
" 20. " *micropterus* " *Trochalopterum lineatum*, etc. (13.)
" 21. " *optatus* (*saturatus*) with *Phylloscopi*, *Pnoepya*, *Suya*, etc. (18.)
" 22. " *poliocephalus* " fosterers side box. (42.)
" 23. *Cacomantis m. merulinus* " *Suya* and *Cisticola.* (49.)
" 24. " " " " abnormal fosterers. (33.)
" 25. " " *passerinus* " *Prinia socialis* and others. (41.)

Box 26. *Hierococcyx sparveroides* with *Arachnothera magna* (series of 5). (32.)
„ 27. „ „ „ *Drymochares nepalensis* and abnormal. (26.)
„ 28. „ „ Blue type with normal and abnormal fosterers. (17.)
„ 29. „ *nisicolor* with all fosterers. (33.)
„ 30. „ *varius* „ *Argya* and *Turdoides* and abnormal fosterers. (45.)
„ 31. *Penthoceryx sonnerati* „ *Alcippe* and other fosterers. (30.)
„ 32. *Surniculus lugubris* „ various fosterers. (6.)
„ 33. *Chalcococcyx maculatus xanthorhynchus* with *Æthopya* and other ? abnormal fosterers. (18.)
„ 34. *Clamator coromandus* with normal fosterers. (43.)
„ 35. „ „ „ not unusual fosterers. (38.)
„ 36. „ „ „ series laid by the same bird. (23.)
„ 37. „ „ „ abnormal fosterers. (26.)
„ 38. „ *jacobinus* „ normal fosterers. (52.)
„ 39. „ „ „ unusual or abnormal fosterers. (37.)
„ 40. *Eudynamis honorata* „ *Corvus splendens*. (44.)
„ 41. „ „ „ other Crows. (24.)
„ 42. „ „ „ unusual fosterers. (18.)
„ 43. Australian Cuckoos.

E. C. STUART BAKER.

GENERAL INDEX.

A General Index to the 'Bulletin' covering volumes 16 to 39 is now ready and can be obtained, price £1, from the publishers, Messrs. H. F. & G. Witherby, 326 High Holborn, W.C.

The cost of production of this important volume has been very considerable and a serious tax upon the funds of the Club; it is hoped therefore that all members will subscribe for a copy, without which their series of the 'Bulletin' will be incomplete.

The next Meeting of the B. O. C. will be held on Wednesday, the 12th of April, 1922, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, the Dinner at 7 p.m.

Members intending to dine are requested to inform the Hon. Sec., Mr. J. L. Bonhote, Park Hill House, Carshalton, Surrey.

(Signed)

W. L. Sclater, *Chairman.* Percy R. Lowe, *Editor.* J. L. Bonhote, *Sec. & Treas.*

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCLXVIII.

The two-hundred-and-sixty-fifth Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48, Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, April 12th, 1922.

Chairman: W. L. Sclater, M.A.

Members present:—E. E. Adams; H. J. Alexander; E. C. Stuart Baker; D. A. Bannerman; G. K. Baynes; C. D. Borrer; A. W. Boyd; P. F. Bunyard; Dr. W. Eagle Clarke; Capt. A. Delmé-Radcliffe; Lt.-Col. H. Delmé-Radcliffe; K. Fisher; Dr. J. M. Harrison; T. Iredale; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain; N. B. Kinnear; Dr. H. Langton; Dr. G. C. Low; Dr. P. R. Lowe (*Editor*); C. W. Mackworth-Praed; Capt. W. E. F. Macmillan; G. M. Mathews; E. G. B. Meade-Waldo; Col. & Mrs. Meinertzhagen; H. Munt; C. Oldham; C. B. Rickett; Lord Rothschild; D. Seth-Smith; M. C. Seton; Major A. G. L. Sladen; S. F. Stewart; H. Kirke Swann; Dr. C. B. Ticehurst; H. M. Wallis; F. J. Waydelin; H. F. Witherby; W. H. Workman.

Guests:—C. M. Ingoldby; A. W. Mathews; R. T. Peel.

Smithsonian Institution
MAY 19 1922
ZOOL. LIBR.

Before the commencement of the ordinary business of the Club, the CHAIRMAN announced that previous to the Dinner a meeting of the Committee had been held in order to decide what action should be taken in regard to the transactions of the Oological Club. After some discussion it was decided that, as the British Ornithologists' Club was in no way responsible for the proceedings of the Oological Club, it was undesirable that these should be published in the 'Bulletin' in future.

The CHAIRMAN further stated that this question had been raised in consequence of some remarks made by Earl Buxton at a recent meeting of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, when he (Lord Buxton) criticized with considerable warmth some of the exhibitions of large series of clutches of eggs exhibited at the Oological Dinners and reported in the 'Bulletin.'

Lord Buxton's remarks were brought to the notice of the Committee of the Union, and the following letter, signed by the President and Secretary of the Union on behalf of the Committee, appeared in the 'Times' of the 10th April :—

"WILD BIRD PROTECTION.

"*To the Editor of the 'Times.'*

"SIR,—In consequence of the exhibition of some clutches of wild birds' eggs at the last Oological dinner, Lord Buxton, at the annual meeting of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, drew public attention to the action of certain oologists as constituting a distinct menace to the effective protection of wild birds and to the due enforcement of the laws passed for their protection. Lord Buxton forwarded a copy of his speech to the British Ornithologists' Union for their observations.

"In the first place, the Committee of the B. O. U. would point out that the Oological dinners are not held under the auspices of the British Ornithologists' Union, nor are those who attend necessarily members either of the B. O. Union or the B. O. Club. In view, however, of the public

interest in the question of the protection of wild birds and of their eggs, the Committee of the B. O. U. desire publicly to state (as they have already assured Lord Buxton) :—

"(1) That they are desirous of encouraging the protection of rare birds in England in every way possible;

"(2) That it is their ambition to limit the collecting of eggs to the taking of such as are required in the interests of science, and they specially protest against the taking of eggs of any birds in any locality where they are rare, or the taking of eggs in unnecessary numbers ;

"(3) That it is their emphatic desire to support, both in letter and in spirit, the Acts which provide for the protection of birds and their eggs, and they deprecate very strongly the action of any member who disobeys these laws, or who incites any other to break or evade them.

"We are, Sir, yours faithfully,

H. J. Elwes, President, B. O. U.
E. C. Stuart Baker,
Hon. Secretary, B. O. U."

"British Ornithologists' Union,
6 Harold-road, Upper Norwood, S.E. 19."

The Committee of the British Ornithologists' Club desire to associate themselves in every way with the principles and views laid down in the letter, and feel that under these circumstances they can no longer continue to publish in the 'Bulletin' the proceedings of the Oological Dinners, over which they have no control and for which they are in no way responsible.

The Chairman's remarks were followed by a discussion in which Dr. C. B. Ticehurst, Colonel R. Meinertzhagen, Lord Rothschild, the Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain, Mr. C. D. Borrer, Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker, Mr. P. F. Bunyard, Mr. E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, Mr. F. J. Waydelin, and others took part.

Mr. W. L. Sclater communicated the following notes on the nomenclature and taxonomy of African Birds (no. 4) :—

Podiceps nigricollis.

The Black-necked Grebe of Africa has recently been named as a distinct subspecies, *Proctopus nigricollis gurneyi*, by Roberts (Ann. Trans. Mus. Pretoria, vi. 1919, p. 118 : Lamberts Bay), on account of its smaller size, shorter bill, and paler ear-plumes, which are pale yellow without any chestnut wash.

An examination of the small African series in the Museum confirms Mr. Roberts's distinctions, and the Abyssinian birds appear to be more or less intermediate. Mr. Péringuey has most kindly forwarded three examples of the South-African Black-necked Grebe, hitherto unrepresented in the Museum collections, and they certainly are smaller than the European birds and also paler and more slaty in colour. It also seems that there is no seasonal change of plumage in the South-African race.

The following are measurements, in millimetres, of the African and European examples :—

	Bill.	Wing.
Cape Colony	21	125
„ „	20	125
Damaraland	22	124
Angola	21	118
Abyssinia	23	131
„	23	123
„	25	130
France.....	24	128
Italy	25	128
Gallilee	25	135
Hartert gives.....	20-24	127-136

I think that under these circumstances Mr. Roberts's distinctions may be upheld.

Himantornis hæmatopus and H. whitesidei.

H. whitesidei was originally described from Lolanga on the Upper Congo. The only other known example was

obtained by Christy on the Bomakandi, in the Uelle district of north-eastern Belgian Congo. On the other hand, Alexander collected a bird obviously of the typical race also in the same district. Until more material is obtained it would be advisable to keep the two forms as distinct species.

Pteronetta hartlaubi.

The Duck described by Neumann as *Pteronetta hartlaubi albifrons* (Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. xxi. p. 42, 1908 : Ituri forest) is undoubtedly identical with *P. hartlaubi*, and the white frontal patch appears to be a character distinguishing the males from the females, as is shown by a good series of three males and four females from Cameroon collected and carefully sexed by Mr. Bates. Some of the other examples in the Museum seem to be wrongly sexed (see Bannerman, 'Ibis,' 1921, p. 106).

Vinago waalia.

The original reference for this species given in the 'Catalogue' (vol. xxi. p. 15), and generally quoted, is to the German translation of Bruce's 'Travels in Abyssinia,' published in 1791, and edited with notes by Gmelin. On turning up the reference it will be found that, though diagnosed, no definite Latin name is given to the Green Pigeon by Gmelin. The earliest description with a definite name appears to be by F. A. A. Meyer (Syst. Sum. Uebers. Zool. Entdeck. p. 128, 1793), who names it *Columba waalia*.

Turtur afer.

Of this species, which has a wide distribution from Senegal and Abyssinia to the Zambesi valley, I can only distinguish, apart from *T. a. mearnsi* recently described, two racial forms, a paler and a more richly coloured one, as follows :—

T. a. afer (Linn.), founded on Brisson's description of a bird from Senegal ranging south to the Gambia and Portuguese Guinea, where it merges into the darker form,

and east perhaps to the Bahr-el-Ghazel ; it has the upper parts a somewhat greyish-brown and the underparts with white on the flanks and abdomen.

T. a. kilimensis (Mearns) is a more richly coloured form, ranging from Sierra Leone to Angola, and east to Uganda, Kenya Colony, Nyasaland, the Zambesi valley, and eastern Southern Rhodesia, with the upper parts a much richer brown and the flanks and abdomen tinged with cinnamon.

T. a. sclateri Rothschild (Bull. B. O. C. xxxviii. pp. 26, 37) must, in my opinion, be regarded as only a synonym of *T. a. kilimensis*.

Turtur chalcospilos.

This name was first assigned to the Green-spotted Wood-Dove by Erlanger (J. f. O. 1905, p. 134), who recognized four geographical races or subspecies. Since then, three more have been added by Mearns and Oberholser, making eight altogether.

An examination of the long series in the Museum reveals no characters of colour or measurement by which any of these races can be distinguished, except perhaps *T. c. volkmanni* from Damaraland.

A careful examination of Wagler's original description (*Columba chalcospilos*) shows that he undoubtedly based his description chiefly on Levaillant's plate, and that the type-locality should be South Africa, as he states in his last paragraph : "Habitat in Africa meridionali satis frequens in terra Caffrorum porro in Senegambia." I think under the circumstances the type-locality should be eastern Cape Province. Moreover, the Green-spotted Wood-Dove does not appear to be found in any part of West Africa except Angola.

Chrysococcyx caprius.

Dr. Hartert (Nov. Zool. xxviii. p. 100, 1921) has recently proposed to distinguish the Didric Cuckoos of northern Africa from those of South Africa, on account of their striking difference in size.

His measurements (in millimetres) are :—

South African males, 118–121; females, 124–125.
Senegal „ 108–115; „ 110–117.

I have made some measurements of the examples in the British Museum, and find the following results :—

Sudan	8 males, 108–115, aver. 111.	5 females, 112–118,
Shoa.....	5 males, 115–119, „ 116.	[aver. 115.
Uganda	4 males, 109–112, „ 110.	
South Africa ..	9 males, 107–118, „ 114.	[aver. 111.
Gold Coast	4 males, 111–117, „ 114.	10 not sexed, 102–118,

Our series from western Africa are not very good or well sexed, but I think it may be easily concluded from the measurements given that Dr. Hartert had hardly sufficient grounds on which to separate two forms of the Didric. Anyhow, the Shoa bird should certainly be included with the South African race on the measurements given.

Dr. C. B. Ticehurst exhibited chicks in down and young in various stages of growth of the Spotted Sand-Grouse (*Pterocles senegallus*), and made the following remarks :—

At a previous meeting I showed similar chicks of *Pterocles senegalensis*=*exustus*, and precisely the same moults take place in *P. senegallus*.

Young in down or Protoptyle plumage. General colour above very pale sandy-yellow, paler, less golden-yellow than in *P. alchata*, but with the same black tips to the down, which on the head is least marked, except above the eyes ; area round the eyes pale ginger-brown. Underparts very pale isabelline. Note that above, the down-pattern is simpler (less variegated with gold, brown, white, and black) than in *P. alchata*. This is especially so on the head and face.

First feather or Mesoptile plumage. The down is pushed out by a semi-down feather.

Both sexes alike (?). Very pale yellowish-isabelline with fine blackish bars above ; whitish-isabelline below with fine

crescentic dark marks on breast; centre of belly black. Head still in down stage.

Second feather or Hemiptile plumage. Sexes distinct.

♂ above, colouring much as in mesoptile plumage, but feathers more grizzled than barred; below, the few feathers which are through show that most of the underparts will be pale isabelline with dark markings on the pectoral region.

♀ above, colour a little richer than in mesoptile plumage; the feathers do not show the grizzled appearance of the male, but are more heavily marked with dark bars and broken crescents.

As in *P. senegalensis* one specimen may show at the same time parts of all three plumages, and no specimen probably ever shows entirely the mesoptile or entirely the hemiptile plumage.

The protoptiles of the head are not lost when other parts show the hemiptile plumage already through on the back, and, as the feathers of the head come through late, it is doubtful whether they belong to the mesoptile or hemiptile series. Further specimens are needed to clear up this point.

The specimens exhibited were obtained by Sir Percy Cox and Major R. E. Cheesman near Baghdad in 1921.

For comparison, chicks in down of *P. alchata* and *P. senegalensis* were exhibited, also mounted feathers showing the generations of feathers in both sexes, as also in Game birds as exemplified by *Alectoris rufa* and in Pigeons by *Columba œnas*, and it was remarked that in these moults Sand-Grouse closely followed Game-birds and not Pigeons, in which either the mesoptile or hemiptile plumage was apparently suppressed.

Dr. C. B. Ticehurst also exhibited the young in down, immature and adult, of *Phalacrocorax nigrogularis* Forbes & Grant :—

This interesting and "rare" Cormorant was described by Messrs. Forbes and Grant from Socotra (see 'Birds of Socotra,' p. 49), where it was discovered on December 7th.

Since then there seems to have been little or nothing published about it.

On March 19th, 1921, Sir Percy Cox and Major Cheesman put into Bahrein Island in the Persian Gulf, and on the desert island of Halul near by they found a very large colony of these birds breeding, and eggs, young in various stages, and adults were obtained. I will leave an account of the nidification to the discoverers to give. The young in down does not seem to be known.

Young in down. Covered with pure white down, except round face and upper part of neck and gular region.

Bill light brown and bluish, bare skin round eye and gular region pinkish-white. Iris pinkish-white. Legs and feet ivory-white.

Immature. Upper parts and head and neck dark brown, scapulars, head, neck, and small wing-coverts with light edges. Breast, belly, and under tail-coverts white. Bill light brown to bluish. Bare skin pinkish; iris whitish; feet pink-brown.

This appears to be a bird a year old.

It is very interesting to note that this Cormorant has a white down; in *P. carbo, P. javanicus,* and *P. graculus* the down is dark brown or blackish.

Whether this Cormorant breeds here and there along the Persian Gulf and Arabian coast to Socotra or whether it wanders to that island in the non-breeding season requires further investigation.

Dr. C. B. Ticehurst also described the following new races of Indian birds :—

(1) **Tarsiger chrysæus whistleri**, subsp. nov.

Differs from typical *T. c. chrysæus* from Nepal in the following respects:—*Male*: not so dark above, paler olivaceous, with few or no black bases to the feathers of the mantle; golden colour everywhere paler. *Female*: greener,

almost with a greyish wash above; upper tail-coverts and tail's edge greener olive, less ruddy olive-brown; underparts paler yellow.

Type-locality. Punjab, Himalayas.

Distribution. N.W. Himalayas (Chamba, Simla, Dharmsala).

Type in the British Museum. ♂, Simla, 24. ii. 1880, ex Hume coll., 86.4.1.2194.

Obs. I have long surmised that the Golden Tarsiger from the N.W. Himalayas was distinct from birds from Nepal and Sikkim (of which the B.M. contains a good series), but only recently, at my special request, has my friend and colleague, Mr. Whistler, sent me sufficient material of this bird from the N.W. Himalayas to verify my suspicion. A single bird from Kumaon appears to belong to the typical race.

(2) **Otus bakkamœna gangeticus**, subsp. nov.

Smaller than *O. b. lettia*, but feathering of toes similar; general colour of upper parts paler. Wing 153–167 mm., mostly 155–162. Nineteen measured. Not nearly as pale as *deserticolor*.

Type-locality. Fatehgarh, United Provinces.

Distribution. Rajputana and United Provinces.

Type in the British Museum. ♀, Fatehgarh, U.P., 11. vi. 1874, ex Seebohm coll., 86.3.25.444.

(3) **Otus bakkamœna marathæ**, subsp. nov.

Feathering of toes as in *O. b. lettia*, but darker in general coloration of upper parts than this and *O. b. gangeticus*; smaller than *O. b. lettia*. Wing 152–162 mm., once 165, as in *O. b. gangeticus*. Larger than *O. b. bakkamœna*. Forty-one specimens examined.

Type-locality. Raipur, Central Provinces.

Distribution. Central Provinces, N. of the Eastern Ghats to S. Bengal (Sambulpore and Maunboom).

Type in the British Museum. ♀, Raipur, C.P., 19.ii.1871, ex Hume coll., 86. 2. 1. 369.

Obs. A series of the above two races, placed side by side, are distinguishable at a glance by their *general* colour-tones. As in all Scops Owls there is variation in *details* of coloration.

It is unfortunate that *O. indica* Gm. (Ceylon), *O. lettoides* Blyth (Coromandel), *O. malabaricus* Hume (Coonoor and W. Ghats), *O. griseus* Jerdon (E. Ghats), and *O. jerdoni* Walden (W. Ghats) are all synonyms of *O. bakkamœna* !

Lord Rothschild exhibited another fossil egg of the Chinese *Struthiolithus*, and remarked that it had been procured by a Mr. Bahr in the same district where most of the *Struthiolithus* eggs had been obtained, viz., in the neighbourhood of Wuan, in the Province of Honan. The specimen exhibited is one of the examples mentioned as recorded on the previous occasion.

Mr. D. A. Bannerman discussed the forms of the Long-billed Crested Larks inhabiting Southern Tunisia, and proposed to name the race inhabiting the plains in the extreme south-east of the Regency.

He said :—" In 'The Ibis,' 1921, p. 397, I remarked that Dr. Hartert had united *Galerida cristata reichenowi* Erl. (described from Tozer on the N.W. margin of the Chott El Djerid) and *G. c. gafsæ* Kleinschm. & Hilgert (described from Seggi near Gafsa) with *G. c. arenicola*, the Algerian form which ranges from El Kantara to Touggourt eastwards. I noted that from the small material examined I could neither refute nor substantiate this statement. If, however, either of these Tunisian forms are kept up, *G. c. reichenowi* has six years' priority. The type-localities of *G. c. reichenowi* and *G. c. gafsæ* are within 50 miles of each other, both on the northern side of the Chott El Djerid, situated in country the physical conditions of which

are from all accounts similar. It would appear therefore that *G. c. gafsæ* cannot be maintained.

"On the other hand, there is in the extreme south-east corner of Tunisia a stretch of country—very desolate stony desert—cut off from the central plains of the Regency by a range of mountains, the Djebel Matmata. Specimens of the Long-billed Crested Lark collected at Tatahouine in the centre of this district show marked differences to examples collected at Gafsa and Oglet Alima, as well as to typical examples of *G. c. arenicola* from Algeria in the darker and more rufous coloration of the upper parts and by the heavier streaking of the breast."

I therefore propose to call this race :—

Galerida cristata whitakeri, subsp. nov.

Type (in the British Museum), ♂ ad. Oct. 1899.

Tatahouine, S.E. Tunisia, collected by M. Blanc for Mr. Whitaker.

Bill 20, wing 110, tarsus 25 mm.

"Tatahouine is 150 miles from the type-locality of *G. c. reichenowi*, and when we remember what an effective barrier a range of mountains usually proves to birds of this class, and how they seem to be affected by the soil on which they live, it is not so surprising to find a new race of Crested Lark isolated in this little corner of the Regency.

"It may be noted that there is already a Short-billed form of the Crested Lark (*G. theklæ carolinæ*), described from this desert, which differs in its pronounced cinnamon-rufous coloration from *G. t. superflua*, the form inhabiting the deserts further north.

"I name this Lark in honour of Mr. J. I. S. Whitaker, who has kindly sent me his series of Tunisian Crested Larks from his private collection in Palermo. Mr. Whitaker, in his great work ('Birds of Tunisia,' 1905, p. 255), noted the very distinct rufous coloration in examples of this Lark, almost sufficient, he thought, to warrant subspecific separation. He has now generously presented the type to the National Collection."

Mr. J. D. La Touche forwarded the description of a new species of Minivet, which he proposed to call :—

Pericrocotus montpellieri, sp. nov.

Adult male. Crown grey, back dark olive-green, rump warm olive-yellow, upper tail-coverts orange-red, side-rectrices and wing-bar orange-vermilion. The throat is pale grey tinged in the centre with yellow. The rest of the underparts and the under wing-coverts orange, redder on the breast. Wing 94 mm., tail 109 mm.

Adult female. Head and hind neck dark grey, the back dark olive-green, rump and upper tail-coverts deep olive-yellow, the throat greyish yellow, rest of underparts deep greenish yellow. Wing 91 mm., tail 130 mm.

Type in the British Museum, ♂ ad. Yangtze Big Bend, 9–10,000 ft. Chukung to Yangpi, W. Yunnan, March 30th, 1906, ex Colonel G. Rippon Coll., 12.17.97.

♀ ad. Loukouchai, S.E. Yunnan, 3rd March, 1921. J. D. La Touche Coll.

I name this handsome and very distinct Minivet in honour of Baron Charley de Montpellier de Vedrines, of the Chinese Maritime Customs, who procured me many interesting birds during his stay at Mengtsz.

The Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain sent the following corrections :—

In the report of the Eleventh Oological Dinner (Bull. B.O.C. xlii. p. 82) Mr. Bunyard states that the earliest record of the discovery of the eggs of the Wood-Lark is that in the 'Ootheca Wolleyana' (presumably this remark applies to England only, though it is not so stated). The Wood-Lark was, of course, well known as a resident to White of Selborne. Moreover, Neville Wood in 'British Song-Birds' gives details of nests found by him in south Derbyshire. This book was published in 1836, long before the cases quoted by Mr. Bunyard.

The earliest Suffolk record is not 1853 as stated, but

1852, as will be seen on reference to Ooth. Woll., *loc. cit.* The three eggs mentioned by Newton as taken in 1844 and 1846, without locality, may well have been of foreign origin ; but T. Hancock found a nest in Surrey in 1849, as recorded by Hewitson.

With regard to the supposed clutch of Grey-headed Wagtail eggs (*M. flava thunbergi*), taken in Kent in 1906, their authenticity rests solely on the statement of Mr. G. Bristow, the well-known taxidermist, who probably mistook a nest of the Yellow or Blue-headed Wagtail for that of the North Scandinavian race. Kent is at least 600 miles from the nearest known breeding-place of the latter form.

For "Varangar" (p. 85) read "Varanger," and for "taken by Rickbeil from Dresser" (p. 85) read "from Dresser : taken by Ruckbeil."

For "*pretosus*" (p. 86) read "*petrosus*," and for "*feldeg*" (p. 85) read "*feldegg*."

Mr. P. F. Bunyard exhibited four clutches of four each, and one of three eggs, of the American Stint, *Pisobia minutilla*, from Labrador, and made the following remarks :—

"These eggs I purchased at the late Mr. A. B. Farne's sale at Stevens's rooms on January 11th, 1922. They were sent to him direct by the Rev. W. W. Perrett, a missionary in Labrador. They were part of Lot 751, *and catalogued as Semipalmated Plover*—which, of course, they are not. A good deal of confusion apparently existed in Mr. Farne's mind as to the identity of these eggs : one data-ticket had been altered from Plover to Sandpiper, the others had Semipalmated Sandpiper written on them, with the A. O. U. No. 246. They do not, however, belong to either of the above-mentioned species, but are in three cases typical of *P. minutilla*.

"In confirmation of my identification, I also exhibit a clutch of four typical *P. minutilla* eggs taken by E. W. Nelson at St. Michaels, Alaska, and which came from the U.S. National Museum : one is figured by Poynting, pl. 34,

No. 6, and it will be seen that these agree exactly with those from the Farne collection. The other two clutches belong to another form, and are not exactly typical in the arrangement of the markings, which are finer and more numerous.

"In size they agree exactly with the measurements given by Ridgway and Chapman. I have also compared them with the eggs of the Semipalmated Sandpiper, *P. pusillus*, in the Natural History Museum, which further confirmed my identification. I also exhibit two typical clutches of four eggs of the Solitary Sandpiper from the same source; these are also from Labrador, which is, as far as I am aware, a new breeding-locality for *Tringa solitarius*. Finally, I exhibit two typical clutches of the Semipalmated Plover from Labrador, which were catalogued as Spotted Sandpiper at the Farne sale."

The next Meeting of the B. O. C. will be held on Wednesday, the 10th of May, 1922, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, the Dinner at 7 p.m. Members intending to dine are requested to inform the Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. L. Bonhote, Park Hill House, Carshalton, Surrey.

[N.B.—Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice *beforehand* to the Editor at Nat. Hist. Museum, South Kensington, and to place in his hands *not later than at the meeting* MSS. for publication in the Bulletin.]

(Signed)

W. L. Sclater,	Percy R. Lowe,	J. L. Bonhote,
Chairman.	*Editor.*	*Sec. & Treas.*

Smithsonian Institution
JUN 12 1922
National Museum

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCLXIX.

The two-hundred-and-sixty-sixth Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48, Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, May 10th, 1922.

Chairman: W. L. Sclater, M.A.

Members present:—E. C. Stuart Baker; D. A. Bannerman; C. D. Borrer; P. F. Bunyard; Dr. William Eagle Clarke; E. Earle; Rev. J. R. Hale; Rear-Admiral E. C. Hardy; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain; G. C. Lambert; Dr. H. Langton; Dr. G. C. Low; Dr. P. R. Lowe (*Editor*); N. L. Lucas; Col. & Mrs. Meinertzhagen; T. H. Newman; C. Oldham; Lord Rothschild; Major A. G. L. Sladen; F. M. Smalley; H. Kirke Swann; Dr. C. B. Ticehurst; K. G. R. Vaizey; H. F. Witherby.

Guest:—C. F. Sonntag.

Mr. David Bannerman gave the following short account of the results of Mr. G. L. Bates's expedition in the western Cameroon–Nigerian Highlands; he exhibited a number of

rare species and subspecies hitherto unrepresented in the British Museum, and described four new species which Mr. Bates had obtained. He said:—

I have now been able to examine cursorily the fine collection of birds which Mr. G. L. Bates made on his recent (1921) journey to the Genderu Mountains. Mr. Bates followed much the same route as that traversed by the Riggenbach Expedition of 1908–1909, except that he did not proceed further north than Genderu. He collected at Yoko, Tibati, Mbanti, Banyo, Genderu, Dodo, Ribao, Kumbo, Bamenda, and Chang, most of the specimens being obtained in the high plain of Tibati or in the adjoining mountains. The net result of Mr. Bates's collection is 300 bird-skins.

The value of this collection may be estimated from the fact that the first fifteen birds I examined were all new to the British Museum, *i. e.*:

1. *Cinnyris preussi genderuensis.*
2. *Zosterops stenocricota genderuensis.*
3. *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus similis.*
4. *Apalis pulchra polionota.*
5. *Sylvietta brachyura epipolia.*
6. *Bradypterus castaneus.*
7. *Melocichla mentalis adamauæ.*
8. *Bessonornis nigriceps.*
9. *Bessonornis albicapilla genderuensis.*
10. *Ptyrticus turdinus harterti.*
11. *Turdoides plebeius gularis.*

The remaining four belong to undescribed forms which I propose to name

Callene batesi, sp. nov.

♂ *ad.* Upper parts olive-brown, darker on the head; a broad white superciliary streak commencing just above the eye and meeting at the base of the upper mandible; nares, eyelids, and cheeks black; chin, throat, and rest of

underparts (except middle of belly) reddish-chestnut; middle of belly white; thighs dusky; under tail-coverts chestnut, tail bright rufous except centre pair of tail-feathers, outer web of outer tail-feather, and extreme tips of remaining feathers, which are dark sepia-brown. The rump is tinged with rufous.

Bill 13, wing 78, tarsus 29 mm.

Type, No. 6382. Banso Mts., N. of Kumbo, 6000 ft., Highlands of Nigerian–Cameroon boundary, 27 September, 1921. G. L. Bates coll.

Obs. Named in honour of Mr. George L. Bates.

Apalis bamendæ, sp. nov.

♂ *ad.* A very distinct species. Upper parts grey, washed with olive-brown, forehead slightly rufous; throat, cheeks, and lores pale rufous; under surface of body grey, middle of belly above the vent buff; tail uniform-coloured, without white outer tail-feathers; bill black.

Bill 11, wing 50, tail 50, tarsus 18 mm.

Type, No. 6431. Between Bemba and Chang, 5000 ft., Cameroon Highlands, 15 October, 1921. G. L. Bates coll.

Obs. This species is most nearly allied to *Apalis affinis* O.-Grant, which inhabits the slopes of Ruwenzori at 6000 ft. It lacks, however, the deep chestnut throat, which is paler and more suffused. It is paler beneath; more olive-green, less grey, above.

Alseonax murinus kumboensis, sp. nov.

♂ *ad.* Most nearly allied to *A. m. obscurus* Sjöst, but much darker throughout, especially on the breast. The upper parts are browner, less grey; the tail-feathers are deeper brown. The underparts are much more richly coloured, many shades deeper brown on the breast, and the belly a deeper buff-colour. The female resembles the male.

Bill 9·5, wing 65, tail 48·5, tarsus 14·5 mm.

Type, ♂ ad., No. 6411. Near Kumbo, 5000–6000 ft.,

Nigerian–Cameroon Highlands, 3 October, 1921. G. L. Bates coll.

Obs. I sent these specimens to Dr. Stresemann at the Berlin Museum, and have since heard from Professor Neumann, who examined them, that they differ from the type-specimens of *A. albiventris* Reich. in being far darker on the underside and especially yellow on the belly. They most resemble, he says, *A. murinus* subsp. from Lendu, Central Africa, and slightly *A. m. subtilis* Grote (*cf.* Grote, O. M. 1920, p. 114).

"Of very particular interest are the Francolins, specimens of which, belonging to the species *F. bicalcaratus*, Mr. Bates collected in the Banso mountains, 6000 ft., near Jang (or Chang), 5000 ft., and again in the lower ground at Yoko. The Banso Mountains are now included in Nigeria; Jang is a little to the south, just over the Cameroon boundary; while Yoko is much further to the east out of the mountain-chain, and lies at an altitude of under 2000 ft. The Francolins from the mountains certainly belong to an undescribed form, and at the special request of Mr. Bates I propose to name them

Francolinus bicalcaratus ogilvie-granti, subsp. nov.

♂ *ad.* Differs from typical *F. b. bicalcaratus* and the form found in the Gold Coast and Nigeria in having the upper parts, including the crown, very much darker, resembling in this respect *F. b. thornei* from Sierra Leone and Liberia. The underparts, however, are quite distinct from *F. b. bicalcaratus* and *F. b. thornei*, as, instead of having cream-coloured or white margins, those feathers (right down to the base) are deep isabelline-buff, as well as the streaks and drops within the black breast-markings.

From *F. b. adamauæ* described from Garua some 600 kilometres further north, this new form may be distinguished by the heavy chestnut markings on the under surface and by having the usual breast-markings of the *bicalcaratus* group, which, according to Neumann, are absent in *F. b. adamauæ*.

Hartert in Nov. Zool. xxiv. p. 291, says, however, that he cannot distinguish *F. b. adamauæ* from *F. b. thornei* !

Bill 22, wing 195, tarsus 57 mm.

Type, ♂ ad., No. 6435. Near Jang, 5000 ft., Cameroon Highlands, 18 October, 1921. G. L. Bates coll.

Obs. The specimen from Yoko (below 2000 ft.), though equally dark on the upper surface, has the underparts paler and the black and white markings on the breast smaller.

Mr. Bannerman further remarked on the curious distribution of *F. bicalcaratus* on the Guinea Coast. He pointed out that the typical bird came from Senegal, and with it could be united specimens from British and French Gambia, and possibly Portuguese Guinea : these all being light-backed birds. Further south in Sierra Leone and Liberia the dark race *F. b. thornei* was found ; but a pale race, in the adult impossible to distinguish from *F. b. bicalcaratus,* inhabited the Gold Coast, Togoland, and Nigeria, as far east as the Niger River. Mr. Bannerman believed that it would simplify matters to name these birds, if characters could be found to separate them from Senegambian examples; he suggested that characters might be found in the young or chicks when these were collected. It appeared that we had in Cameroon *F. b. adamauæ* in the extreme north, further south the highland form now described, and yet nearer the coast the nameless dark-backed paler-breasted bird inhabiting the Manenguba Mountains (*cf.* 'Ibis,' 1915, p. 645; 1922, p. 126).

The Chairman said that he thought we ought to congratulate most heartily our fellow-member of the B. O. U.—Mr. George Bates—on the success of his expedition. He hoped that, when the collection came to be worked out by Mr. Bannerman, still more rarities would come to light. The collection which Mr. Bates had sent home was evidently of great value, especially as we had no material in England from this little-known mountainous district. He wished Mr. Bates every success in the fresh expedition which he was contemplating.

Mr. Kirke Swann exhibited two Kestrels from Wad Medine, Blue Nile, October 10–11, 1901, collected by W. L. S. Loat, which he considered to be migrants from Siberia, and made the following remarks :—

Col. Meinertzhagen in the January no. of 'The Ibis' has made some interesting observations upon the Palæarctic Kestrels, and comes to the conclusion that there are only three races of Kestrels in Asia, viz., *Cerchneis tinnunculus tinnunculus*, *C. tinnunculus japonicus*, and *C. tinnunculus interstinctus*. The Siberian race, which I named *C. tinnunculus dörriesi*, he considers to be a synonym of *C. tinnunculus tinnunculus*, thus making its range extend across Asia to the Amur River. He gives the wing-measurements of three European ♂ ♂ as 235–252 mm. and of three Siberian ♂ ♂ as 249–258 mm., which agree with the larger wing-measurement I claimed for Siberian birds. He has, however, unfortunately overlooked the tail-measurements, an important character in the Siberian race. My average wing-measurements for European birds are ♂ ♂ 239 and ♀ ♀ 253 mm., while the tails vary from ♂ 158 to 165 in ♂ ♂ and 165 to 172 mm. in ♀ ♀. Mr. Witherby, who disregards the Siberian race, gives the following measurements of ♂ ♂ : wing 230 to 252 mm., tails 150 to 173 mm. The measurements of the tails of skins from Siberia and Indian winter birds, presumed to be from Siberia, are : ♂ ♂ 172 to 194, ♀ ♀ 178 to 200 mm. These measurements are quite extraordinary as compared with typical birds, and, taken in conjunction with the longer wings and generally paler coloration, prove, I think, that the Siberian race is distinct from the typical or European form. The two African winter birds I am showing measure respectively, ♂ wing 262, tail 184 mm., and ♀ wing 260, tail 178 mm. The immature ♂ type of my Siberian form at Tring Museum has a wing of 253 mm. and tail 172 mm., without allowing for the wearing at the ends. The co-type in the British Museum, an extremely pale ♀ bird, has the wing 264 and

tail 178 mm., thus agreeing closely with the African ♀ ; another ♂ from "Siberia" has the wing 258 and tail 173 mm.

I am also showing four European birds for comparison, together with an immature ♂ in worn winter plumage from Ceylon which has a wing 264 mm. and tail of 194 mm., without allowing for the wearing, measurements which I feel cannot be even approached by any European example. Needless to say, the chief difficulty with the Siberian race is that we have only five or six skins to work on, and those not from Northern Siberia. Many Indian winter migrants are to be found in the Tring and British Museum collections with similar or larger measurements, including in the latter collection male birds from Sikkim with wings of 261–267 mm. and tails of 175 to 189 mm. These birds obviously breed far to the north (as Indian, Persian, and even Central Asian breeding birds are small dark birds), and the only race we can refer them to is the North-Asian one. Of course, more or less typical birds from Central and West Asia also occur in India in the winter, together with the breeding race (*C. tinnunculus interstinctus*). I summarise the measurements for the two races as follows :—

	Wing.	Tail.
C. tinnunculus tinnunculus (Europe and Central Asia)..	♂ 230–247	158–165
„ „ „ „ ..	♀ 245–260	165–172
C. tinnunculus dörriesi (Siberia)	♂ 250–258	172–173
„ „ „	♀ 260–264	178–180
„ „ (India and E. Africa)..	♂ 250–267	172–194
„ „ „ „ ..	♀ 260–267	178–200

A short discussion followed, in which Dr. Ticehurst said that his investigations did not agree with Mr. Kirke Swann's, and he was unable to recognise the Siberian subspecies.

The next Meeting of the B. O. C. will be held on Wednesday, the 14th of June, 1922, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, the Dinner at 7 p.m. Members intending to dine are requested to inform the Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. L. Bonhote, Park Hill House, Carshalton, Surrey.

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(Signed)

W. L. Sclater, *Chairman.* Percy R. Lowe, *Editor.* J. L. Bonhote, *Sec. & Treas.*

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCLXX.

The two-hundred-and-sixty-seventh Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48, Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, June 14th, 1922.

Chairman: W. L. Sclater, M.A.

Members present:—E. C. Stuart Baker; W. J. Fitz-herbert-Brockholes; P. F. Bunyard; F. Curtis; R. H. Deane; A. Ezra; E. Hartert; Rev. J. R. Hale; T. Iredale; C. Boden Kloss; Dr. H. Langton; P. R. Lowe (*Editor*); N. S. Lucas; C. W. Mackworth-Praed; G. M. Mathews; Col. & Mrs. Meinertzhagen; H. Munt; T. H. Newman; C. Oldham; Lord Rothschild; D. Seth-Smith; Capt. H. F. Stoneham; H. Kirke Swann; H. F. Witherby.

Guests of the Club:—Edwin Ashby; Jonathan Dwight; T. Gilbert Pearson.

Guests:—J. W. Ashby; Denis Co[illegible] C. [illegible] E. Orton; B. E. Stoneham.

Smithsonian Institution
AUG 8 1922
National Museum.

Mr. Edwin Ashby, on behalf of the Council of the Royal Australian Ornithologists' Union, gave a warm invitation to the members to attend the 21st Annual Congress of that

Union, which is to be held in Adelaide in October next. This Session being the "Coming of Age" of the Union, it is hoped that ornithologists from Great Britain will be able to attend. On behalf of the Council he assured them of a very hearty welcome.

Mr. Ashby then stated that, at an adjourned meeting held at the Camp of the last R. A. O. U. Conference, certain resolutions under the heading of "Private Collections and Permits" were adopted, although thought by some to be *ultra vires*. The object of this legislation is to restrict collecting throughout the wide unpopulated Continent of Australia within very narrow limits. Amongst other resolutions it is stated "that the formation of any new collections be discountenanced." The speaker stated that here in England he had been giving a number of lectures in Schools and Colleges, endeavouring to stimulate the interest of the young people in Nature Study, especially in Ornithology, and had been doing the same for many years in his own State of South Australia. He would like to see promising young ornithologists making real study collections in every large County School. Where were the workers of the future to come from if the young are to be precluded from making student collections?

Shortly before Mr. Ashby left Australia, he received a letter from the Hon. Secretary of the Union, in which the the writer said that the Council have recommended that an area, 60 miles in diameter, with Melbourne as its centre, should be proclaimed a "*Bird Sanctuary.*"

As fully half, if not more, of the "population of the State of Victoria is within this large block, which contained forests, wooded hills, and mountains, this resolution was, in the opinion of the speaker, a serious menace to the future of Ornithology. He asked British ornithologists, if they agreed with his point of view, to support him in the stand he was making against this restrictive policy. This would strengthen him in the action he was taking. He had given notice that, at the R. A. O. U. Congress to be held next October, he would oppose the resolution referred to and

would suggest a less restrictive and more truly scientific policy as to collecting in the future.

Mr. Ashby then described the habits of the Lyre-Bird (*Menura victoriæ*), showing a splendid skin of a male that had been collected at Yennar in Gippsland. He described the nature of the splendid forest in which it was found, and related that before shooting the bird he and his companions listened for something like half an hour to its fine vocal performance. During that time eleven different species of birds were mimicked, their songs and call-notes being reproduced by the Lyre-Bird with perfect accuracy. In addition, there were its own peculiar calls and the imitation of the twittering of a number of small birds, making in all a total of fourteen separate songs and calls. The full details of this mimicry had been carefully recorded on the label attached to the skin of the Lyre-Bird exhibited, making that particular skin quite unique.

Mr. Ashby attributed the fact of this vocal performance being given on the 4th of April, instead of during the pairing season of June and July, to the fact that, on that Easter Monday of two years ago, it was pouring with rain, the wet weather apparently acting as a stimulus to the Lyre-Bird in the same manner that sunshine does to many other birds.

He then gave particulars of the nesting-habits of the mound-building birds of Australia, showing a fine specimen of the Mallee Fowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) and suggesting a hypothesis explaining the causes that have led this bird to utilise sun-heat as well as heat generated by fermenting material in the incubation of its eggs. The full particulars will appear in a paper in 'The Ibis.'

Mr. T. Gilbert Pearson, President of the National Association of the Audubon Societies of the United States of America, gave an eloquent address on the subject of the conservation of bird-life in North America, during which he made a point of the fact that in America the

Association of Audubon Societies worked in sympathy and complete harmony with the American Ornithologists' Union and other Societies interested in the scientific study of Ornithology.

Dr. Ernst Hartert made remarks on his expedition to Cyrenaica, and described the following new subspecies :—

Parus cæruleus cyrenaicæ, subsp. nov.

Very much like *P. c. ultramarinus*, but frontal white patch smaller, back darker blue, and wing shorter. Wing, ♂ 60, ♀ 58 mm., as against ♂ 63–67, ♀ 61–64 mm., in *P. c. ultramarinus*.

Hab. Woods of the mountains and plateau of north-western Cyrenaica, or Barka.

Type. ♂ ad., juniper woods near Merg, 4. v. 22. Hartert and Hilgert coll.

Troglodytes troglodytes juniperi, subsp. nov.

Differs from *T. t. kabylorum* in its longer bill and darker brown feet.

Hab. Juniper woods on mountains and plateau of north-western Cyrenaica, or Barka.

Type. ♂ ad., near Merg, 9. v. 22. Hartert and Hilgert coll.

Lt.-Col. Meinertzhagen made the following remarks :—

I have recently had occasion to examine the races of *Certhia himalayana*, in order to verify two specimens from Ziarat near Quetta. Vigors's type of *C. himalayana* was lodged in the collection of the Zoological Society, which collection was sold. The type is therefore lost to science. It was undoubtedly collected in either Garhwal or Kumaon. There are, however, two specimens in the British Museum shot at Pushut in Afghanistan, on the labels of which is written "type" in Gadow's handwriting, done probably

when he was writing the 'Catalogue of Birds Brit. Mus.,' vol. viii. They are certainly not the types of either *C. himalayana* or any other race, and must be ignored.

I find that *Certhia himalayana* is separable into three races :—

Certhia himalayana himalayana Vigors, from the Central Himalayas about Simla, Garhwal, Kumaon, and east to Sikkim. Upper parts more rufous than the other races. Over 40 examined.

Certhia himalayana tæniura Severtzow, from Turkestan. Ten examples examined from Samarkand. The greyest race with large culmen.

2 females : wing 67–68, culmen 20–21 mm.
8 males : „ 70–75, „ 22–26 mm.

Certhia himalayana limes, subsp. nov.

Adult male. Upper parts not so rufous as *C. h. himalayana* and not so grey as in *C. h. tæniura*. Crown almost as dark as in *C. h. himalayana*, but never so pale or grey as in *C. h. tæniura*. Underparts as in *C. h. tæniura* and lacking the rufous of *C. h. himalayana*.

11 females : wing 65–70, culmen 18–23 mm.
17 males : „ 67–73, „ 19–24 mm.

Type in the Brit. Mus. ♂, Gilgit, 5000 ft., 13. ii. 79. Reg. No. 97.12.10.2375.

45 specimens, from Gilgit, Hunza, Sonamerg, Cashmir, Murree, Paiwar Kotal, Jellalabad, Pushut in Afghanistan, Zhob Valley, Kohat, Fort Sandeman, the Salt Range, Peshawur, and two in my own collection from Ziarat near Quetta.

Mr. David Bannerman sent the description of a new Little Crested Lark from the Cameroon highlands, which he proposed to name

Heliocorys modesta saturatior, subsp. nov.

Adult male. Most nearly allied to *H. m. bucolica* Hartl., but even darker on the upper parts than that race ; the

light markings on the crown and mantle, as well as the outer webs to the outer pair of tail-feathers, being a deep rufous-buff. The underparts are rich tawny-buff, deeper-coloured on the vent and under tail-coverts. The breast is more heavily spotted than in any of the described races. The bill is a trifle heavier.

Bill 12, wing 87, tail 47, tarsus 18 mm.

Type. ♂ ad., No. 6146. Tibati, Cameroon, 2800 ft., 1 Aug., 1921. G. L. Bates coll.

I am very doubtful whether *H. m. giffardi* Hartert, the Gold-Coast form, can be separated from typical *H. modesta modesta*, but would recognize *H. m. bucolica* from the N. Belgian Congo as a well-differentiated form.

[Mr. J. Delacour forwarded the description of a new Parrakeet, which he described as follows :—

Brotogeris jugularis apurensis, sp. nov.

Adult male. Green, lighter on the underparts ; forehead green ; pileum slightly tinged with brown ; cheeks, sides of the head, and occiput greenish-blue; a very small orange spot on the chin ; upper wing-coverts greenish-brown ; scapulars green with a slight brown tinge ; primary-coverts bluish-green with blue tips; quills green edged with blackish-grey ; all the under wing-coverts pure yellow ; tail green, with a little yellow on the inner webs of the feathers ; bill, cere, and feet flesh-colour; eye dark brown. Total length 180, wing 115, tail 60, bill 15, tarsus 14 mm.

Adult female. Similar to the male, but slightly smaller. Total length 170 mm.

Type, ♂ ad. Camaguan, on the Rio Portuguesa, State of Guarico, Venezuela. Collected by myself on the 17th December, 1921. Coll. J. Delacour.

♀ ad. Same locality and date.

Obs. This Parrakeet was very common in the villages and all along the rivers in the Apure region. Collected at

Camaguan and San Fernando de Apure. I was able to procure many specimens, dead and alive. Three live birds, 2 ♂ and 1 ♀, are in my aviaries, where I hope to breed them and study their eggs and young ones, which were not obtainable in Venezuela while I was collecting in that country.

This species is very different to *Brotogeris devillei* (Gray), collected by Mr. G. K. Cherrie in the Orinoco region, and to *B. chrysopterus* (L.), found in other parts of Venezuela. Its nearest relatives seem to be *B. pyrrhopterus* (Lath.), found on the Pacific coast of Ecuador and Peru, and *B. jugularis* (Mull.), from Southern Mexico, Central America, and Colombia; but the new species differs entirely in the colouring of the head, the under coverts of the wing, etc.]

Mr. H. Kirke Swann exhibited, on behalf of Dr. Casey Wood, a fossil egg, supposed to be that of the Tropic-Bird (*Phaethon flavirostris*), excavated February 1915, from a quarry at Tuckerstown, Bermuda, from the coral limestone or Paget formation—a post-glacial deposit that covers most of the islands. It varies in thickness from a few inches to several hundred feet. This specimen was found about 15 feet below the surface.

He also exhibited a number of photographs obtained by Dr. Casey Wood, comprising :—

1. Fossil eggs found in quarrying the limestone (Paget formation) rock in Bermuda for building purposes. (Courtesy of Bermuda Museum, Hamilton.)

2. Fossil egg of the (?) Tropic-Bird (*Phaethon flavirostris*) excavated from a limestone quarry in Bermuda, showing the contents of the shell to be, on macroscopic examination, probably similar to the friable rock in which it is embedded. (Courtesy of Bermuda Museum.)

3. Bermuda fossils. Fossil egg from the collection in the British Museum of Natural History, found several [feet?] below the surface, the limestone rock in which it

was embedded being overlaid by deep-red soil commonly found in Great Bermuda. This specimen is probably the egg of a bird and not of a chelonian. (Courtesy of Dr. A. Smith Woodward.)

4. Copy of label, R. 302. British Museum of Nat. Hist. (Courtesy of Dr. Smith Woodward.)

Eggs of Turtles (*Chelone*), imbedded in coral-sand which has consolidated through evaporation and the deposition of lime from the sea-water, so that the eggs have been prevented from hatching. In some cases the remains of the young animals are visible. Beach Deposit, Ascension Island.

Mr. P. F. Bunyard, in reply to the Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain's criticism regarding the breeding of the Grey-headed Wagtail (*M. flava borealis*) in Kent, made the following remarks :—

In the 'Bulletin' for April 12th, 1922, Mr. Jourdain endeavours to throw doubt on this record, which, he says, "rests solely on the statement of Mr. G. Bristow." This is not correct, as the birds were carefully examined by Dr. Norman Ticehurst, and recorded in his 'History of the Birds of Kent,' p. 97, where it is mentioned that Mr. Bristow had had a considerable number of Blue-headed and Grey-headed Wagtails through his hands, and was fully qualified to identify them.

It is now seventeen years since I exhibited the male and female of the species in question, together with the nest and eggs (Bulletin B. O. C. vol. xix. 1906, p. 23). Mr. Jourdain is surely a little late with his criticism, the record having never previously been questioned.

In a criticism of Mr. Bunyard's remarks, Mr. Witherby pointed out that the real point at issue was not whether the birds shot were referable to the subspecific form, *M. flava borealis*, but whether the nests and eggs exhibited by Mr. Bunyard in 1906 did, in fact, belong to them.

The next Meeting of the B. O. C. will be held on Wednesday, the 11th of October, 1922, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, the Dinner at 7 p.m. Members intending to dine are requested to inform the Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. L. Bonhote, Park Hill House, Carshalton, Surrey.

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W. L. Sclater,	Percy R. Lowe,	J. L. Bonhote,
Chairman.	*Editor.*	*Sec. & Treas.*

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BULLETIN

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EDITED BY

PERCY R. LOWE.

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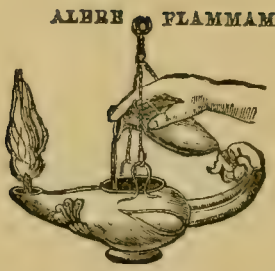

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PREFACE.

The total number of attendances at the meetings of the Club during the past Session was 351 : as compared with 466 and 402 during the two preceding sessions.

A large number of new forms have again been described, those chiefly responsible for them having been Mr. D. A. Bannerman (Cameroons, Northern Nigeria, and Ivory Coast), Mr. G. L. Bates (Northern Nigeria), Count Gyldenstolpe (Central Africa), Dr. E. Hartert (Ethiopian and Palæarctic), Mr. N. Kuroda (Japan), Mr. J. D. La Touche (Yunnan and China), and Lord Rothschild (Yunnan).

We regret to record the death of the following members of the Club :—Mr. Henry John Elwes, F.R.S. ; Mr. John Henry Gurney ; Mr. John James Lewis Bonhote ; Mr. Percy Sanden Godman; Dr. Herbert Langton ; Mr. Aubyn Bernard Rochfort Trevor-Battye. Probably in no single year has death robbed the Club of so many distinguished ornithologists whose names and faces had grown to be so intimately associated with our meetings.

In a Session which has not been distinguished by any outstanding features of unusual interest we look back with pleasure to the series of wholly admirable photographs of bird-life exhibited by the Swedish Naturalist Mr. Bengt Berg.

We regret to have to record that Mr. C. W. Mackworth-Praed has been compelled to resign the Secretaryship of the Club.

(Signed) PERCY R. LOWE,
Editor.

London, July 1923.

RULES

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

(*As amended, January 12th, 1921.*)

I. This Club was founded for the purpose of facilitating the social intercourse of Members of the British Ornithologists' Union. Any Member of that Union can become a Member of this Club on payment (to the Treasurer) of an entrance fee of *One Pound* and a subscription of *One Guinea* for the current Session. Resignation of the Union involves resignation of the Club.

II. Members who have not paid their subscriptions before the last Meeting of the Session, shall cease, *ipso facto*, to be Members of the Club, but may be reinstated on payment of arrears.

III. Ordinary Members of the British Ornithologists' Union may be introduced as Visitors at the Meetings of the Club, but every Member of the Club who introduces a Member of the B. O. U. as a Visitor (to the dinner or to the Meeting afterwards) shall pay *One Shilling* to the Treasurer *on each occasion.*

IV. No gentleman shall be allowed to attend the Meetings of the Club as a guest on more than three occasions during any single Session ; and no former Member who has been removed for non-payment of subscription or any other cause shall be allowed to attend as a guest. Ladies are not admitted as guests.

V. The Club shall meet, as a rule, on the Second Wednesday in every Month, from October to June inclusive, at such hour and place as may be arranged by the Committee. At these Meetings papers upon ornithological subjects shall be read, specimens exhibited, and discussion invited.

VI. An Abstract of the Proceedings of the B. O. C. shall be printed as soon as possible after each Meeting, under the title of the 'Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club,' and distributed gratis to every Member *who has paid his subscription.* Copies of this Bulletin shall be published and sold at *Two Shillings* each to Members.

Descriptions of new species may be added to the last page of the 'Bulletin,' although such were not communicated at the Meeting of the Club. This shall be done at the discretion of the Editor and so long as the publication of the 'Bulletin' is not unduly delayed thereby.

Any person speaking at a Meeting of the Club shall be allowed subsequently to amplify his remarks in the 'Bulletin'; but no fresh matter shall be incorporated with such remarks.

VII. The affairs of this Club shall be managed by a Committee, to consist of the Chairman, who shall be elected for five years, at the end of which period he shall not be eligible for re-election for the next term, the Editor of the 'Bulletin,' who shall be elected for five years, at the end of which period he shall not be eligible for re-election for the next term, the Secretary and Treasurer, who shall be elected for a term of one year, but shall be eligible for re-election, with four other Members, the senior of whom shall retire each year; every third year the two senior Members shall retire and two others be elected in their place. Officers and Members of the Committee shall be elected by the Members of the Club at a General Meeting, and the names of such Officers and Members of Committee, nominated for the ensuing year, shall be circulated with the preliminary notice convening the General Meeting at least two weeks before the Meeting. Should any Member wish to propose another candidate, the nomination of such, signed by at least two Members, must reach the Secretary at least one clear week before the Annual General Meeting.

Amendments to the Standing Rules of the Club, as well as very important or urgent matters, shall be submitted to Members, to be voted upon at a General Meeting.

VIII. A General Meeting of the B. O. C. shall be held on the day of the October Meeting of each Session, and the Treasurer shall present thereat the Balance-sheet and Report; and the election of Officers and Committee, in so far as their election is required, shall be held at such Meeting.

IX. Any Member desiring to make a complaint of the manner in which the affairs of the Club are conducted must communicate in writing with the Chairman, who will call a Committee Meeting to deal with the matter.

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Major A. G. L. Sladen. Elected 1921.
Colonel Stephenson R. Clarke. Elected 1922.
D. A. Bannerman. Elected 1922.

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Smithsonian Institution
NOV 18 1922
Natural History

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCLXXI.

The two-hundred-and-sixty-eighth Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48, Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, October 11th, 1922.

Chairman: W. L. Sclater, M.A.

Members present:—E. E. Adams; Capt. T. P. Aldworth; E. C. Stuart Baker; D. A. Bannerman; A. D. Bradford; P. F. Bunyard; C. Chubb; Capt. H. L. Cochrane, R.N.; Rev. J. R. Hale; Dr. E. Hartert; T. Iredale; N. B. Kinnear; G. C. Lambert; Dr. G. C. Low; N. S. Lucas; Admiral H. Lynes, R.N.; Lt.-Col. H. A. F. Magrath; Dr. P. H. Manson-Bahr; G. M. Mathews; H. Munt; T. H. Newman; C. B. Rickett; D. Seth-Smith; Major A. G. L. Sladen; Capt. H. F. Stonham; H. Kirke Swann.

Guest of the Club:—Capt. G. H. Wilkins.

Guest:—G. I. Scholey.

The Chairman said that he very deeply regretted to record the death of Mr. J. L. Bonhote, which was announced in 'The Times' of that morning.

Mr. Bonhote had been connected with the Club since 1895,

and on his return from Egypt last year had consented to become the Secretary and Treasurer of the Club. Mr. Bonhote was known to many of the older members as the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of the Union from 1907 to 1913, and had managed its affairs with conspicuous success. His loss to the Union, and particularly to the Club, was a very severe one.

The Chairman further remarked that, had there been sufficient time to warn members, he would have cancelled the October meeting as a mark of the sincere sympathy which he knew all members would feel at the great loss they had sustained.

At the suggestion of the Chairman, it was unanimously decided to send a letter of appreciation and sympathy to Mrs. J. L. Bonhote.

The Chairman announced that, owing to Mr. Bonhote's illness, the business meeting of the Club had been unavoidably postponed until November, as the accounts had not been brought up to date.

Captain George H. Wilkins, Naturalist on the Shackleton-Rowett Expedition to the Antarctic, who was the Guest of the Club, gave a most interesting outline of the voyage of the 'Quest,' which has resulted in the collection of a number of specimens of interest to science and considerable geographical information.

A selection of the specimens obtained is being presented to the British Museum (Natural History) by Mr. Rowett, who financed the 'Quest' expedition.

Mr. Wilkins said:—"The first stop of interest to naturalists was St. Paul's Rocks. This small cluster of rocks is situated about 550 miles from the coast of South America, in 29° 15′ W. long., and is almost on the equator. The highest point is only fifty feet above the sea, and the entire circumference under three-quarters of a mile. Two species of birds were found—the Booby (*Sula sula*) and

the Noddy (*Anous stolidus*). Both were found to be breeding, and eggs as well as young in all stages of development were noticed, which points to their breeding-season extending over a considerable period.

"South Georgia was the next place from which birds were collected. The distribution of birds on this island is peculiar; for, while a number of species are found together at the north end of the island, very few are found in the south. Several days were spent in the observation of the breeding-habits of *Diomedea exulans*, and a series of moving and other pictures were taken. The nesting-place of the Grey-headed Mollymauk was discovered, and a number of eggs and young were collected.

"In all, 19 species were obtained on S. Georgia, and others were observed but were not added to the collection. From South Georgia the Antarctic voyage was started, but, after reaching a point lat. 69° 18′ S., long. 17° 11′ 30″ E., on Feb. 12, 1922, the vessel was held up by ice. The return journey was made *viâ* Elephant Island. Throughout this voyage of 78 days 6000 miles were covered, 2800 miles through the ice. Many birds were observed: several species of Petrels, Terns, and Penguins. A landing was made on Elephant Island, where numbers of *Chionis alba* were found and collected. On the Antarctic journey 23 specimens were obtained, including 8 species.

"The Tristan da Cunha Group was next visited, and landings were made on each of the islands. Although at Tristan da Cunha many of the birds that have been reported from there have been driven off the island since it has been inhabited, the same species are generally to be found on Nightingale and Inaccessible Islands. A series of the Thrush (*Nesocichla eremita*) and of the Bunting (*Nesospiza acunhæ*) was collected, and a bird somewhat resembling the latter, but much larger in size and with a different type of bill, was found on Nightingale Island. A series of Petrels was secured there also, and from this Group 10 species were obtained.

"At Gough Island, which lies 220 miles south of its

nearest neighbour Nightingale Island, and 1500 miles W. by S. of the Cape of Good Hope, a stay of four days was made. This island is small, of volcanic origin ; about seven to eight miles long and three to four miles wide. It has been described as lofty, and its height estimated at 4380 feet, but the aneroid readings by Capt. C. V. Douglas, the geologist, who climbed to the top, proved it to be just under 3000 feet. From the sea the island appears green and beautiful, rising abruptly on almost every side. It is deeply scarred with ravines that generally terminate in high cliffs, over which waterfalls shoot and are lost in spray before they reach the sea below. Landings were said to be difficult and dangerous, but during a four-days' stay it was always possible to go ashore, and it is thought that by taking advantage of the shelving rocks at the foot of the cliffs it would always be possible to effect a landing.

"As in South Georgia, the birds were found to congregate at one particular part of the island, the western corner, which in both cases is the most difficult of access. Numerous Petrels, Terns, and Skuas were seen, and of only two Penguins seen one was secured and proved to be *Eudyptes serresianus*. Many rookeries were noticed, but these at the time of our visit (June 1st) were unoccupied. The 'Island hen' (*Porphyriornis comeri*) was found to be plentiful, though difficult to collect in the thick growth of tussock and fern. The Thrush (*Nesocichla eremita*) found on the Tristan Group was not observed on Gough Island. A considerable number of the Buntings named by Dr. Eagle Clarke (Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, vol. xv. 1904, p. 18) *Nesospiza goughensis* and *N. jessicæ* were collected, and it is expected that a close comparative study of these birds will bring forward some new and interesting facts.

"56 specimens were collected on Gough Island, representing 10 species. From Gough Island the return journey was made *viâ* Cape Town and the islands in the Atlantic Ocean.

"At Ascension Island the 'Wideawake Fair'—a huge

Colony of nesting *Sterna fuliginosa*—was visited, a number of specimens were secured, and a remarkable series of still and moving pictures were taken."

Mr. G. I. Scholey, introduced by Mr. Bunyard, exhibited beautiful enlarged photographs of the Cuckoo. These photographs had already appeared in 'The Graphic' of Sept. 3, and had excited considerable controversy. The series of photos showed the Cuckoo depositing its egg in the nest of a Pied Wagtail in a quarry.

Mr. Scholey gave a clear account of his observations, and stated his reasons for believing that the Cuckoo had placed its egg in the nest under observation by means of its bill. Mr. Scholey stated emphatically that he had watched the Cuckoo approach the nest with a bulge in its gullet and place its head and neck *only* into the nesting-cavity. On the bird then flying away, Mr. Scholey at once examined the nest and found a Cuckoo's egg which was not there immediately prior to the Cuckoo's visit.

A discussion followed, in which Mr. Stuart Baker, Mr. Bunyard, Mr. Hale, Mr. Sladen, and others took part.

Mr. David Bannerman exhibited and described two new races of *Sarothrura* collected by Mr. Bates in the Cameroon Highlands and Lowlands. He also made some supplementary remarks to his review of this genus in 'The Ibis,' 1921, pp. 112–120.

The new forms he proposed to name as follows :—

Sarothrura pulchra tibatiensis, subsp. nov.

Adult male. Differs from *S. pulchra pulchra* (Gold Coast specimens) in its larger size, longer and heavier bill and tarsus, and by its brighter chestnut head, nape, and breast.

Measurements of largest ♂ (No. 6179): Bill (exposed) 17 mm.; wing 91·5; tail 54; tarsus 34; middle toe including claw 36.

Adult female. Differs from all known races of *S. pulchra* in having the brown bars of the back broader, more numerous, and of a brighter chestnut, as well as by its larger size.

Type, ♀ adult (No. 6347). Plain below Ribao, 3000 ft. N.W. Cameroon Highlands, G. L. Bates coll. Bill (exposed) 16 mm.; wing 88; tail 48; tarsus 33; middle toe including claw 32.

Range. Highlands of W. Cameroon, 3000–4600 ft., Tibati, Genderu, Mbanti, Ribao.

Immature male. Head and mantle mottled, the chestnut feathers coming in amongst the darker grey-brown feathers; black feathers of back tipped and washed with rufous, particularly on the wing-coverts; white spots smaller. Rufous tail barred with black as in the adult female. Underparts grey, faintly washed with rufous; white spots absent, except the very faintest indications on flank-feathers.

Observation. The specimens here described have been sent to the Berlin Museum for comparison, and Professor Neumann writes that they have been compared with a large series of 40 specimens of *S. pulchra*. He concurs with me that I am fully entitled to describe this race as new. I have pleasure in here thanking Professor Neumann for his valued assistance.

The second race which I now propose to name inhabits S. Cameroon (River Ja district) and N. Angola. The characters which differentiate it from *S. p. pulchra*, *S. p. zenkeri*, and *S. p. centralis* (to which latter species it is most nearly allied) are fully set out by me in 'The Ibis,' 1921, p. 117. From *S. p. tibatiensis* the female is easily distinguished by its smaller size, blacker back, and narrower and paler rufous bars.

I propose to restrict the range of this bird to the districts mentioned above and not to include the N. Belgian Congo

birds under this name, though I believe it occurs as far east as Medje. I have pleasure in naming it

Sarothrura pulchra batesi, subsp. nov.,

in honour of Mr. G. L. Bates, who has obtained all the Cameroon specimens of the two races named herein.

Type (in the British Museum), ♀ adult, B.M. Reg. No. 1920. 6. 26. 97. Bitye, River Ja, S. Cameroon, 17th May, 1913. Bill 13 mm., wing 75, tail 40, tarsus 29·5, middle toe and claw 28. Number of specimens examined 7.

Note.—In both cases I have made a female the type, as the characters of the races in this species are much more clearly seen than in the males.

I have only one other remark to make as regards this genus. In 'The Ibis,' 1921, p. 117, in giving the range of *S. pulchra pulchra*, I included Portuguese Guinea. We have only one bird from this district, collected at Gunnal by Ansorge. This specimen is luckily a female and by its very bright rufous head, nape, and breast, and its almost *uniformly* banded back and wing-coverts, appears to differ from all other specimens I have examined. If this bird proves to be distinct, as I now suspect, we must employ the name *Rallus cinnamomeus* Lesson (Rev. Zool. 1840, p. 99), where the bird from Casamance is thus designated, for this race. In my paper cited (*l. c.* p. 114) I made the mistake of uniting this and the Gold Coast bird under one name. Little more can be done until we get specimens from Sierra Leone—the type-locality of *Sarothrura pulchra* Gray.

Mr. Bannerman further remarked that he was now engaged in re-arranging the Ethiopian Sun-birds in the British Museum collection, and found that the following races required to be separated :—

Cinnyris superbus ashantiensis, subsp. nov.

Adult male. Differs from *C. superbus superbus* in having a shorter bill (26–28 mm. as against 29–33 mm.), a shorter wing (68–74 mm. as against 72–79 mm.), the metallic steel blue-green cap is smaller and does not extend on to the nape as it does in the typical bird.

The female shows similar differences to the male in size.

Type in the British Museum, ♂ ad. B.M. Reg. No. 1911. 4. 26. 2. Ashanti, Gold Coast. H. G. F. Spurrell coll. Number of specimens examined: 37 ad. ♂ ♀ of new race; 39 ad. ♂ ♀ of typical form.

Range. Represented in the British Museum from Sierra Leone, Gold Coast, and S. Nigeria.

Observation. *C. superbus superbus* was described from Malimbe on the Loango coast. It extends from Cameroon, Gaboon, and N. Angola through the Belgian Congo into Uganda. I can see no difference between birds from East and West Africa.

Cyanomitra oritis bansoensis, subsp. nov.

Adult male. Differs from *C. oritis oritis* (which is confined to Cameroon Mountain) in having a shorter bill (25–26 mm. as against 28·5–30 mm.) and a slightly shorter wing. The metallic feathers of the crown and sides of the neck are steel-green, instead of steel-blue, and the metallic feathers of the throat and breast are steel-blue, instead of deep purplish blue. The underparts are rather brighter and the middle of the belly is yellower.

Type in the British Museum, ♂ ad. Banso Mts., North of Kumbo, Nigerian–Cameroon Highlands, 6000 ft., 26 Sept., 1921. G. L. Bates coll.

Range. Highlands of Nigeria and Cameroon (Tibati, Kumbo, Banso Mts, Manenguba Mts.).

Observation. The possibility of the Manenguba Mountain Sun-bird belonging to a distinct race was foreshadowed by me in 'Ibis,' 1915, p. 654. The specimens now obtained by Mr. Bates have decided the question.

A new race of Red-tailed Chat was also described by Mr. Bannerman from the Cameroon Highlands, as follows:—

Cercomela familiaris genderuensis, subsp. nov.

Adult male. Most nearly allied to *C. f. gambagæ* Hartert, but darker throughout, particularly on the crown and mantle.

The chestnut of the rump and tail feathers is also of a deeper tone.

Bill 11 mm., tail 59; wing 81; tarsus 26.

Type in the British Museum, ♂ ad. Genderu, Cameroon Highlands, 4600 ft., 28 August, 1921. G. L. Bates coll.

Observation. This is evidently a dark mountain race inhabiting the Genderu Mountains and the high plateau situated between that range and the Banso Mountains on the Nigerian–Cameroon boundary.

C. f. falkensteini Cab., described from Tschintschoscho, Loango Coast, is a much paler bird.

Lord Rothschild sent the descriptions of some new Yunnan birds, collected by Mr. G. Forrest, which were exhibited by Dr. Hartert:—

Dryocopus forresti, sp. nov.

This fine new bird is nearly allied to *Dryocopus richardsi* Tristr., from Tsuschima Island, and *D. javensis feddeni* Blanf., from Burma. As the latter is recorded from Yunnan by Outram Bangs (Malipa, Burma Border), I must treat the new form as a species.

♂ *ad.* Differs from *D. richardsi* in the darker scarlet, *less* orange scarlet of the crown and nape; in the less amount of white on the concealed portions of the inner secondaries, and in the almost complete absence of the narrow white edges to these secondaries.

It also differs from *D. richardsi* in the less extent of the black portion of the lower upper tail-coverts. On the under surface it is apparently more strongly tinged with cream-colour on the white areas.

From *D. j. feddeni* it differs in its much larger size, larger white tips to the primaries, and blacker chin and throat.

♀ *ad.* Differs from *D. richardsi* in having a scarlet nape-band, in the much less amount of white on the concealed portion of the inner secondaries, in the complete absence of the white edges to the secondaries, and in the more creamy

underside. It differs from *D. j. feddeni* in its much larger size, larger white tips to the secondaries, and much blacker chin and throat.

Culmen, ♂ 62 mm., ♀ 50 mm.; wing, ♂ 253 mm., ♀ 247 mm.; tarsus, ♂ 40 mm., ♀ 35 mm. Bill black; feet greyish black; iris pale green (*G. Forrest*).

Hab. Mekong Valley, Yunnan, 1921.

Dryobates obscurior, sp. nov.

♀. Above still darker than *D. pygmæus obscurus* La Touche. Head down to base of culmen entirely black, bill slenderer and more pointed.

Underside as heavily streaked with black as in *D. p. obscurus*, but much greyer and less strongly washed with yellow. "Bill, upper mandible black, lower grey-black; feet black; iris brown" (*G. Forrest*).

1 ♀, Lichiang Range, May 1921, 9–11,000 ft.

Dryobates pygmæus omissus, subsp. nov.

This is the bird I enumerated as *D. scintilliceps* (Novit. Zool. xxviii. p. 22, no. 49, 1921). It has the underside less heavily striped than in *D. p. obscurus*, but much brighter buffish-yellow, and the crown is as grey as in *D. scintilliceps*.

Type, ♂, Lichiang Range.

Tarsiger indicus yunnanensis, subsp. nov.

Differs from *T. indicus indicus* in having a less uniform underside, the throat being much paler and the rest of the underside much suffused with yellow, not so strongly with rust-colour. The white edging at the lower edge of cheeks more distinct and the under wing-coverts and axillaries more sulphur-yellow; under tail-coverts greenish, less rusty.

♀. Differs by its paler throat and more yellow, less brownish colour of the rest of the underside.

"Bill and feet black; iris dark brown" (*G. Forrest*).

Hab. ♂ (type), Lichiang Range, 10,000 ft., 13 Nov., 1921. ♀, Mekong-Salwin Divide, 11,000 ft., Sept. 1921.

Proparus striaticollis yunnanensis, subsp. nov.

Nearest to *P. s. manipurensis* Grant, and like that form has the lores the same colour as the crown, *not* black as in *P. s. striaticollis*. Differs in being larger and the flanks and rump more yellow, less tawny.

Wing 55 mm., *P. s. yunnanensis*; 49–51, *P. s. manipurensis*, 1 ♀, Mekong Valley, April 1921; 1 ♂ (type), Mekong–Salwin Divide, Sept. 1921.

Yuhina nigrimentum intermedia, subsp. nov.

Intermediate between *N. nigrimentum* and *N. pallida*. Differs from the former by the greyer back and from the latter by the intermediate shade of buff on the abdomen and flanks.

Hab. Mekong Valley and Mekong–Salwin Divide.

Type, ♂, Mekong–Salwin Divide, 27.vii.21.

Paradoxornis webbiana ricketti, subsp. nov.

♂ *ad.* Nearest to *P. w. styani*, but head and nape much darker chestnut; the rest of the upper surface much greyer, not so strongly washed with yellowish brown. Below throat and chest white, not suffused with vinaceous; feathers with longitudinal chestnut streaks reaching on to two-thirds of the breast, not stopping short at lower neck and much more sharply defined than in all the other races of *P. w. webbiana*. Abdomen and flanks much paler than in *P. w. styani*.

Hab. ♂ ♀, Yangtze Valley, 6–7000 ft., Oct. 1921 (type, ♀, No. 466, *Forrest*).

Parus major longipennis, subsp. nov.

Differs from *P. major commixtus* Swinh. in being larger.

Wing, *P. m. longipennis*, ♂ 70–75 mm., ♀ 67 mm.

„ *P. m. commixtus*, ♂, 66 mm., ♀ 62 mm.

Hab. Lichiang Range.

Type, Lichiang Range, 9–12,000 ft., 10.xii.21.

Passer rutilans intensior, subsp. nov.

♂ ♀. Differs from *P. rutilans cinnamomeus* in its much smaller size and from *P. rutilans debilis* Hart. in the much darker upperside.

Unfortunately I identified this bird (Nov. Zool. xxviii. p. 61) as *P. r. assimilis* Wald., which is identical with *P. rutilans rutilans*, the wrong locality on the type-specimen having caused it to be compared with *P. r. cinnamomeus* (*cf.* Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xii. p. 827).

Hab. Mekong Valley.

Type, Mekong Valley, 7–9000 ft., 6.vii.21. Measurements: ♂ wing 71–75 mm.

Propyrrhula subhimachala intensior, subsp. nov.

♂ *ad.* Above more intensely and completely saturated with dark crimson. Below more intensely crimson, especially on the chin and throat, and this colour extends further over the breast than in the typical race.

♀. Above less suffused with olive-green; below the yellow is deeper.

Hab. Lichiang Range.

Type, Lichiang Range (no date).

Procarduelis rubescens saturatior, subsp. nov.

♂ ♀. Differs from *P. r. rubescens* in the much darker and deeper coloration all over.

Hab. Shweli–Salwin Divide.

Type, Shweli–Salwin Divide, 9000 ft., May 1919.

Dr. E. Hartert exhibited a new Crested Lark, which he described as follows :—

Galerida cristata festæ, subsp. nov.

Nearest to *G. c. brachyura* and *G. c. zion* from Palestine, but bill longer, coloration of upperside and wings browner. Culmen 20–22·5, mostly 21–22, while in *G. c. brachyura* and *zion* it seldom surpasses 20 and only exceptionally reaches 22 mm. Smaller than *G. c. arenicola* from Algeria and Tunisia, wing much shorter, also considerably darker, more brownish. Most of the specimens are more or less tinged with rufous by the red soil and fine dust which

pervades the plumage of all ground-birds in Cyrenaica, but specimens from the sand-dunes near Bengasi and the young spotted bird reveal the original colour.

Hab. Plateau and plains of Barka or Cyrenaica. Type in the Tring Museum. ♂ ad., near Bengasi, 27.iii.1922. Hartert and Hilgert coll.

Named after Dr. E. Festa, the traveller in many lands, who, with the exception of Dodson, who collected for Mr. Whitaker along the coast of south-western Cyrenaica on his journey from Murzah to Bengasi, was the first to attempt the ornithological exploration of Cyrenaica.

Mr. G. M. Mathews described the following new birds from material brought back from Australia by Mr. Tom Carter :—

Polophilus phasianinus highami, subsp. nov.

Differs from *P. p. melanurus* (red phase) in having a black patch on the back of the neck, and in having the two outer tail-feathers black. It is also smaller. Wing 255 mm.

Collected on Glenflorrie, Ashburton River, Mid-West Australia.

Calamanthus montanellus leakei, subsp. nov.

Differs from *C. m. montanellus* in being paler olive above, and the black striping both above and below less pronounced.

Collected at Woolundra, Gold Fields Railway, interior of South-West Australia, on 22 March, 1922. This subspecies connects up *C. hartogi*, which should be called *Calamanthus montanellus hartogi*.

Nesoptilotis leucotis woolundra, subsp. nov.

Differs from *N. l. leucotis* in being smaller. It is also darker on the back, but the black throat not so pronounced. The white ear-patch is smaller.

Collected at Woolundra, South-West Australia, on 28 March, 1922.

Mr. Gregory M. Mathews also exhibited the following skins, kindly sent over from the Melbourne Museum on loan :—

Austroturnix olivii Robinson (male and female), from Coen, Queensland.

Cinclosoma alisteri Mathews (female), from Naretha, West Australia.

Charadrius hiaticola Linné, from New South Wales.

And described the following new races :—

Austroturnix olivii coenensis, subsp. nov.

Differs from *A. o. olivii* Robinson in being cinnamon-rufous above (not pale vinous-chestnut) and in having the wing-coverts lighter and the breast darker. It is also slightly larger.

Type from Coen, North Queensland. Collected by Mr. William R. Maclennan on 1 Feb., 1922.

Onychoprion fuscatus glauerti, subsp. nov.

As *Sterna gouldi* Reichenbach, 1845, was not founded on Gould's plate in his 'Birds of Australia,' but from skins in the Dresden Museum, I designate his type-locality as New South Wales and name the bird figured by Gould in part xxviii. (1847), as above.

Mr. Mathews further proposed *Acanthiza uropygialis kycheringi*, new name for *Geobasilius uropygialis erama* (A. J. Campbell).

Mr. P. F. Bunyard, in further reply to the Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain's criticism regarding the breeding of the Grey-headed Wagtail (*Motacilla flava thunbergi* (*borealis* olim)) in Kent, made the following remarks :—

In the Bull. B. O. C. xlii. 1922, p. 144, Mr. Witherby raised the point as to whether the nest and eggs exhibited by me in 1906 did in fact belong to the pair of birds which were

exhibited at the same time. I wrote Mr. Bristow, and received his reply on Sept. 5th ; he says :

"I shot the cock first, and laid up not far from the nest, from which the hen had flown, and waited nearly an hour, and shot her just *as it was going into the nest.* I do not remember seeing any *flava,* but, of course, *rayi* are numerous every year. Since then I know of one other pair with the nest and eggs that have been taken."

Mr. Bristow's letter, in my opinion, disposes of any suggestion of error on his part.

Mr. H. Kirke Swann exhibited two Honey-Buzzards from East Asia, and made the following remarks :—

Examples of Honey-Buzzards from Japan and China are so scarce in collections that the two skins I am showing will probably be of interest. The immature ♂ from Japan, although rather small (wing 420 mm.), I assign to *Pernis orientalis*. Being a September bird, it is probably an immigrant in Japan. I differ, I believe, from most other ornithologists in calling *P. orientalis* a species, but I do so on good grounds. It is not only a much larger bird, differing in plumage, but has very different feet, these being large with long, powerful, and much curved claws, while *P. apivorus* has smaller feet with smaller claws, very little curved—in fact, just like the other darker bird shown from China. This second skin, a ♂ taken at Minshan, West Kansu province, Sept. 28th, 1921, was sent me for examination by Dr. Lönnberg, of the Stockholm Museum. It has the wing 402 mm., practically the size of the European *P. apivorus*, the dark examples of which it resembles in plumage as well as structure. It is rather larger than *P. cristatus ruficollis*, the Indian Crested Honey-Buzzard, but smaller than the northern *P. orientalis*, and with quite distinct feet. From the date it may be a migrant and not a breeding bird, but, if so, where from?

I should remark that the few other Chinese winter birds I have seen are undoubtedly *P. orientalis* from Siberia.

Sharpe, however, referred Chinese and Japanese specimens to the Crested Honey-Buzzard *P. ptilonorhynchus*, and Ridgway did the same with a previous Japanese example. *P. ptilonorhynchus* is a synonym of *P. cristatus cristatus*, the large form inhabiting the Philippines and Malay Archipelago, and not the smaller Indian form, *P. cristatus ruficollis*, of which *P. ellioti* is a synonym.

Gurney was of opinion that Ridgway's bird was *P. apivorus*, but I consider it was more probably *P. orientalis* from the description ('Ibis,' 1884, p. 275).

Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker described the following new subspecies of Sylviidæ and Turdidæ :—

Acrocephalus concinens stevensi, subsp. nov.

This little Reed-Warbler is very close to *A. c. concinens*, but differs in being decidedly darker and also smaller.

Wing, 3 ♂♂, 49·5–53 mm., as against 52–57 mm. in typical *concinens*.

Breeding specimens from Lakkimpur have the under surface much more brown, or fulvous brown, below than the darkest non-breeding specimens of either *A. c. concinens* or *A. c. haringtoni*. The wing-formula is the same as in those two races, *i. e.* first primary about 10 or 11 mm.; second primary equal to 8th to 10th.

Type. ♂, 11.4.1905. Stevens Coll., No. 724.

"Iris olive-brown ; upper mandible horny black, pale on edges of commissure, lower mandible horny with blackish tip. Culmen from true base 15 mm."

Type-locality. Hessamara, N. Lakhimpur, extreme East Assam.

Several nests were taken at Hessamara, the eggs being quite unlike those of either of the other races, smaller and much browner. In fact, it was the striking difference in the eggs which first drew my attention to the birds and to suspect a new race before I had seen the skins.

Acrocephalus stentoreus amyæ, subsp. nov.

A small dark form of Reed-Warbler, similar to *A. s. brunnescens*, but decidedly smaller and darker.

In this race of *A. stentoreus* the under surface is darker and more richly coloured than in *A. s. brunnescens*, and so marked is this that breeding birds of the new race in breeding plumage are darker even than winter specimens of that bird.

Type, ♂, 12.4.05. Stevens Coll., No. 2650.

Colours of soft parts. "Iris olive-brown; upper mandible and tip of lower mandible blackish horny, base of lower mandible pinky horny; tarsus bluish horny" (*Stevens*).

Measurements. Wing 81·5 mm.; tail 67 mm.; tarsus 28 mm.; culmen 21 mm.

Type-locality. Hessamara.

Several nests and eggs were taken by Mr. Stevens at Hessamara, and these latter are strikingly smaller than those of the other races.

An examination of the material available in the British Museum shows that in the *Acrocephalus* group the wing-formula appears to be of more importance than any other characteristic in deciding what are species and what subspecies, a fact we might have anticipated after an examination of the European Reed- and Marsh-Warblers.

Both *A. c. stevensi* and *A. s. amyæ* follow the general rule of tropical sedentary birds in being smaller and darker than their migratory cousins, who breed in Temperate or Palæarctic areas. I name these two interesting little Warblers after Mr. Stevens and Mrs. Amy Stevens, their discoverers.

The distribution of the Indian *Acrocephali* seems to be as follows:—

ACROCEPHALUS AGRICOLUS.

Wing-formula: first primary about 9–10 mm.; second primary = 6th to 7th.

Breeding North Central Asia to ? Kashmir, in winter over a great part of South-West Asia and in India to Ceylon.

The Kashmir breeding bird is very small and may *not* be true *agricolus*, but more material is required.

Acrocephalus concinens.

Wing-formula: first primary 9–11 mm.; second primary =8th to 10th.

A. c. concinens. Breeding mountains of Central North China to Kashmir; winter to South China and North India.

A. c. haringtoni. Breeding mountains of North-West Frontier of India, Afghanistan, Baluchistan, and East Persia; winter to Western India.

A. c. stevensoni. Breeding in sub-Himalayan tracts from Dooars to Eastern Assam; winter to Bengal and Assam, ? Behar.

Acrocephalus stentoreus.

Wing-formula: second primary equal to or shorter than 5th.

A. s. brunnescens. Breeding mountains of China and Himalayas; winter to South China, India, etc.

A. s. amyæ. Breeding sub-Himalayan Terai and plains from Sind to Eastern Assam; winter Northern India and Burma south to Pegu.

Acrocephalus arundinaceus.

Wing-formula: second primary equal to or longer than 4th.

A. a. orientalis. Breeding Central and North Asia east to Japan and North-East China, also mountains of Northern and Central China; winter south to India, Burma, China, etc., etc.

Hodgsonius phœnicuroides ichangensis, subsp. nov.

Similar to *H. p. phœnicuroides* from the Himalayas, but smaller and with a decidedly smaller bill. The backs of the males are a deeper blue than in that bird and there is no fulvous-brown wash on the posterior flank and vent as in

H. p. phœnicuroides, except in one specimen, which shows it to a very slight extent. The spots on the bastard-wing also seem to be bolder and more prominent in the Chinese than in the Indian birds.

Fourteen Chinese birds vary from 69 to 71 mm. in wing-measurement, as against 73 to 79 in Indian birds; whilst the culmen from feathers of forehead to tip measures 13 mm. as against 15 mm.

Type. No. 1914.7.16.551. Ichang, Upper Yangtse Valley. F. W. Styan Coll., British Museum.

Birds from Yunnan are somewhat intermediate, wings 73 mm., culmen 15 mm., but with the deep blue backs of *H. p. ichangensis*.

Saxicola caprata burmanica, subsp. nov.

Exactly like *S. c. caprata* from Luzon and other islands, but bigger—wings 67–72 mm., as against 63–65 mm., in one instance only 67 mm. ; culmen 11–11·5 mm., as against 10–10·5 mm., very rarely 11 mm.

In a few cases the white on the under tail-coverts extends also to the tips of the longest feathers of the extreme posterior flanks, but in no instance does it extend on to the abdomen, as in *S. c. bicolor* ; whilst it is easily separated from *S. c. atrata* by its much smaller size and smaller bill.

Type. No. 88.4.1492, Pegu. British Museum Collection.

Type-locality. Pegu.

Range. Northern Malay States, Tennasserim to Chin Hills, Assam south of the Brahmaputra, Kachin Hills, Shan States, and Yunnan.

Enicurus maculatus robinsoni, subsp. nov.

Differs from *E. m. maculatus* in having no spots on the breast and the spots on the back very much smaller ; from *E. m. guttatus* it differs in being very much smaller and in having fewer and much smaller spots on the back; from Lord Rothschild's *E. m. omissus* it differs in having much smaller spots on the back.

There are seven specimens, collected by Robinson in Annam, of which four are adults and all four exactly alike. I name this bird after the collector.

Type. No. 1919.12.10.356, Langham Peaks, S. Annam ; 23rd May, 1918, Robinson and Kloss Coll., British Museum.

The series of *E. m. robinsoni* have wings measuring 103 to 115 mm., as against

E. m. omissus. Wing 106 to 117 mm.
E. m. guttatus. „ 96 to 103 „
E. m. maculatus. „ 100 to 112 „

Henicurus m. lacatus, Bangs, is only a synonym for *E. m. guttatus*, as has already been pointed out by Rothschild.

Mr. J. D. La Touche sent the following descriptions of new forms of Chinese birds for publication :—

In 'The Ibis,' 1895, pp. 327, 335, I remarked on the difference in colouring between the Pescadores Is. Larks and those of South Formosa ; this difference is so evident that, as the Pescadores Is. bird has not yet been separated, I propose to name it as follows :—

Alauda gulgula pescadoresi, subsp. nov.

Similar to *Alauda wattersi* of South Formosa, but very rufous all over. Bill shorter than in the latter.

Type. ♂. Fisher Is., Pescadores, 10 February, 1894.

Suthora gularis pallida, subsp. nov.

Near *Suthora gularis* Verreaux, from Moupin (in W. Szechuen), but much paler everywhere. The upper parts from the forehead to the upper tail-coverts clear pale orange-ochre with just a shade of olive on the back ; surface of tail and upper tail-coverts paler chestnut ; cheeks, lores, and superciliary stripe pure white, only a few fine black hairs starting from the eye over the lores. Wing 49 and 50 mm.

Type. Sex inc. Kuatun, N.W. Fohkien, late winter, 1911.

Three examples from Kuatun, all exactly similar, have been compared with a mounted bird in good condition given to me by Père David out of his private Paris Collection. I had previously considered this specimen, which is labelled "Ssetchuan occ. 30 Janvier, 1869," as darkened by smoke and exposure. A more careful examination, however, has revealed that this is not so; the upperparts and the flanks are actually of a warm chestnut-ochre, the surface of the tail of a very bright chestnut, and the lores and eye-region are much marked with black as in *S. morrisoniana* O.-Grant. The wing in this specimen measures 52 mm., but Père David in 'Les Oiseaux de la Chine' gives wing-measurements as 50 mm.

Heteroxenicus joannæ, sp. nov.

Adult female. Dark olive-brown above; the upper tail-coverts, upper surface of tail, and outer webs of primaries and secondaries (innermost excepted) light and somewhat dull fulvous-brown. Lores and sides of head and neck olive-brown. Pale olive-brown breast and flanks; centre of the breast tinged with buff, rest of underparts pure white. Iris dark brown; bill blackish, base of lower mandible greyish; mouth pink; legs pale violet. 1st primary about half of 2nd, 2nd=10th, 4th and 5th equal and longest, the 3rd primary just below the 6th. Bill stout, broad at base; culmen 13·5 mm.; wing 70 mm.; tail 51 mm.; tarsus 27.

Type. Ad. ♀. Mengtz, S.E. Yunnan, 3 May, 1921.

No male was procured or seen.

Phylloscopus proregulus yunnanensis, subsp. nov.

Adult male. Differs from *P. p. proregulus* in the much less distinct head-stripes, the coronal stripe being but imperfectly indicated, the superciliary stripe paler and greener; in the secondaries being edged throughout with

plain green without any dusky mark below the lower wing-bar. The axillaries and under wing-coverts are paler yellow; the underparts are much suffused with tawny yellow; the flanks are rather dark tawny olive; the bill is a little longer and narrower.

Upper mandible dark purplish-brown, lower mandible dusky-yellowish with dark point; legs green (April).

Bill brown, base of lower mandible orange-flesh; legs brown (October).

Total length 107 mm.; wing 52, 53, 53, 53·5, 54 mm.

2nd primary equals 8th or between 8th and 9th.

Type. ♂. Mengtz, 16 Oct., 1920.

Acanthopneuste trochiloides claudiæ, subsp. nov.

Near *Acanthopneuste t. assamensis* Hart. (*A. t. harterti* S. Baker), but larger and brighter, markings on head very distinct. The underparts are on the whole pale, and in all the 49 examples examined, with the exception of one or two, the under tail-coverts are of a rather bright greenish-yellow. The wing-bars are broad and bright, the white edging and tips of the two outer pairs of rectrices are variable, ranging from very narrow to broad, but never extending over the whole inner web. The upper parts and wing-surface agree with *A. t. fokiensis* Hartert, but the underparts of the latter bird are of a rather bright greenish-yellow. Wing-formula very variable:—One example has the 2nd primary equal to the 7th, ten have it between the 7th and 8th, nineteen equal to the 8th, ten between the 8th and 9th, six equal to the 9th, one between the 9th and 10th, and two equal to the 10th. Wing, ♂, 58–66·5 mm., ♀ 57–62·5 mm., average of 36 males 62·6 mm., of 12 females 59 mm.

Types, ♂, Mengtz, 15 Oct., 1920.

„ ♀, „ 14 Oct., 1920.

Named in honour of Mrs. Hartert.

Acanthopneuste trochiloides disturbans, subsp. nov.

Near *A. t. claudiæ*, but much smaller, the underparts a little brighter and greener (in four out of five examples),

ocular stripe very dark and upper parts of a somewhat brighter green. It also resembles *A. t. fokiensis* Hart., but is less yellow underneath and has a different wing-formula. The edging on outer rectrices is moderate or narrow, unlike *A. t. harterti* S. Baker, which Mr. Baker describes as often covering "nearly the whole of the outer * webs of the outermost pair and sometimes the greater part of the penultimate pair." Wing, ♂ 57–58 mm., ♀ 52–52·5 mm. The second primary equals the 10th or is between the 9th and 10th.

Types, ♂ ♀, Mengtz, 10 Sept. 1920.

* Since corrected to "inner."

The next Meeting of the B. O. C. will be held on Wednesday, the 8th of November, 1922, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, the Dinner at 7 p.m. Members intending to dine are requested to inform Mr. W. L. Sclater, Natural History Museum, South Kensington, S.W.

The Annual General Meeting (postponed from October) will be held at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT on the 8th November at 6.15 p.m., immediately preceding the Dinner.

[N.B.—Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice *beforehand* to the Editor at Nat. Hist. Museum, South Kensington, and to place in his hands *not later than at the meeting* MSS. for publication in the Bulletin.]

(Signed)

W. L. Sclater,
Chairman.

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCLXXII.

The two-hundred-and-sixty-ninth Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48, Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, November 8th, 1922.

Chairman: W. L. Sclater, M.A.

Members present:—E. C. Stuart Baker; D. A. Bannerman; C. D. Borrer; P. F. Bunyard; C. Chubb; Capt. H. L. Cochrane, R.N.; Rev. J. R. Hale; Dr. E. Hartert; T. Iredale; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain; N. B. Kinnear; G. C. Lambert; Dr. G. C. Low; Dr. P. R. Lowe (*Editor*); N. S. Lucas; Dr. P. H. Manson-Bahr; D. W. Musselwhite; T. H. Newman; C. Oldham; W. J. P. Player; W. E. Renaut; C. B. Rickett; Lord Rothschild; Sir Malcolm C. Seton; Major A. G. L. Sladen; H. Stevens; S. F. Stewart; H. M. Wallis.

Guests:—Col. H. R. Baker; Col. Cuming, D.S.O., O.B.E.; C. Hopwood; Col. Moens, C.M.G., D.S.O.; L. D. Wakely.

Smithsonian Institution
22 1922
National Museum.

The Annual General Meeting, unavoidably postponed, was held at Pagani's Restaurant immediately before the Dinner.

Mr. W. L. Sclater took the Chair.

Mr. C. W. Mackworth-Praed was elected Hon. Secretary and Treasurer in the place of Mr. J. L. Bonhote, deceased. Colonel R. Stephenson Clarke was elected a member of the Committee in place of Lord Rothschild, who retires by seniority, and Mr. D. A. Bannerman in the place of the late Dr. H. Langton.

The Committee was thus constituted for the Session 1922–23 :—

Committee, 1922–23.

W. L. Sclater, *Chairman* (elected 1918).
P. R. Lowe, *Editor* (elected 1920).
C. W. Mackworth-Praed, *Hon. Sec. & Treasurer* (elected 1922).
Rev. J. R. Hale (elected 1920).
Major A. G. L. Sladen (elected 1921).
Col. Stephenson R. Clarke (elected 1922).
D. A. Bannerman (elected 1922).

The Chairman read a statement from Mr. Mackworth-Praed, who had kindly consented to act as provisional Secretary and Treasurer, in which he stated that, although reluctant to hold out any definite promise, the financial outlook of the Club warranted the hope that in the future the annual subscription might be reduced.

Mr. H. Munt, who had kindly audited the Accounts, then gave a short *résumé* of the actual figures.

Mr. Stuart Baker suggested that in future the accounts should be circulated with the list of proposed new officers before the meeting was held. This was agreed to.

The accounts for 1921–22 were then adopted.

The Chairman (Mr. W. L. Sclater) read the following Annual Address :—

During the past year we have to deplore the loss of several of our members. Among them may be mentioned Mr. W. E. de Winton, who died on 30 August last after a long and distressing illness. Though probably unknown to most of those now present, Mr. de Winton was a great supporter of the Club in its early days. He was an original member from its foundation in 1892, and was its second Honorary Treasurer and Secretary in succession to Mr. Howard Saunders between the years 1899 and 1904. In those times he was a frequent speaker and exhibitor at our meetings, but he was perhaps more interested in mammals than in birds, and most of his work dealt with that group. We have also lost—again after a long and distressing illness—Mr. J. L. Bonhote, who on his return from Egypt, where he held a post under Major Stanley Flower in connection with the Zoological Gardens at Gizeh, consented to act as our Honorary Treasurer and Secretary. Bonhote was interested in evolution and heredity, and before he went to Egypt made a large number of breeding experiments with domestic fowls and other birds. He wrote a good deal on this subject, and his views will be found at length in a volume, 'Vigour and Heredity,' published in 1916. He also wrote an excellent work on the Birds of Britain (1908) ; while his last contribution to ornithological literature was an address read to us just a year ago on Bird Protection, a subject on which he held thoroughly sound and practical views. Lastly, there died on the very day of our last meeting (11 October) Dr. Herbert Langton, an old member of the Club and one of the most amiable of men. He had been a member of the Committee of the Club since 1921.

Turning now to the work done in ornithology during the last year, we may begin with the collecting expeditions. Admiral Hubert Lynes and his colleague Mr. Willoughby P. Lowe returned from their long sojourn in Dafur early in the year, bringing with them extensive collections in all branches of Natural History. We trust that Admiral

Lynes will soon favour us with a report for 'The Ibis' on the fine series of birds he has collected. Mr. Lowe has again set forth, this time in company with an enthusiastic young friend Mr. H. R. Hardy, for the Ivory Coast, a portion of West Africa belonging to France and lying between the British colonies of Sierra Leone and the Gold Coast and not hitherto explored. We wish them all luck.

Mr. Hartert spent some weeks in Cyrenaica, east of Tripoli, during the spring, a country but little known ornithologically; and Mr. Jourdain made a second expedition to Spitsbergen last summer and added a number of species to the list of birds obtained there. We understand that he is preparing a handbook on the Birds of the group. Mr. Witherby, too, has made two expeditions to Spain during the past year and has added a good deal to our knowledge of the avifauna of the Iberian Peninsula.

Captain Wilkins, the naturalist of the 'Quest' expedition, addressed the Club only last month and gave us some information about what he had found in the islands of the South Atlantic; while the birds brought back by the first Everest expedition have been worked out and published in the pages of 'The Ibis' by Mr. Kinnear.

Of works completed or in progress during last year, the first place must be given to Dr. Hartert, who has finished his 'Vögel. pal. Fauna.' Mr. Chubb has also completed his work on the 'Birds of British Guiana,' and Mr. Bannerman has published a charming account of his long experience of the Canary Islands. Mr. Baker has commenced a new edition of the 'Fauna of British India' series, the first volume of which was recently published; while the parts of Witherby's 'Practical Handbook of British Birds' and Mathews's 'Birds of Australia' appear with tolerable regularity.

We have little to report from the still distracted continent of Europe. In Germany Dr. Stresemann has succeeded Dr. Reichenow as the Custos of Birds in the Berlin Museum and also as editor of the two German bird-journals, the 'Journal für Ornithologie' and the 'Ornithologische Monats-

berichte.' In Sweden, Count Gyldenstolpe is busy working at an interesting collection of birds from the Lake Kivu district of Central Africa, where he was collecting for some months with Prince William of Sweden. There is little to report from France and Italy, but in Holland Mr. van Oort is making progress with his finely illustrated work on the Birds of that country. In America considerable activity prevails. We have had the pleasure of seeing no fewer than six distinguished American ornithologists in England during the past year, all of whom spent some time working in the Natural History Museum. These were Mr. F. M. Chapman who is working on Neotropical birds, Mr. J. P. Chapin who has been examining our African series, Dr. Jonathan Dwight who has been studying our collections of Gulls, Mr. Gilbert Pearson who addressed us on the subject of Bird Protection in America, Dr. Casey Wood, and Mr. John Phillips. It would be, I am sure, a great pleasure to our American fellow-workers if some of our own "Ibides" would visit them on the other side of the Atlantic.

It has also been a great pleasure to see some of our Australian friends in England during the past session, among them Mr. H. S. Le Souëf of Melbourne, Mr. E. Ashby of Blackwood, S. Australia, and Mr. C. L. E. Orton.

Mr. David Bannerman described two new birds from West and Central Africa, which he proposed to name

Hypochera chalybeata sharii, subsp. nov.

Distinguished from *H. chalybeata chalybeata* by its more velvety-blue coloration. It is much duller in colour than either the typical form or *H. c. neumanni*, and entirely lacks the steel-blue gloss of the latter race. In colour it more nearly approaches *H. c. amauropteryx* from South Africa.

Bill 8, wing 65, tail 35, tarsus 13 mm.

Type in the British Museum, ♂ ad. Ratu, Gribingui river, French Equatorial Africa, 16 Sept., 1905, Boyd-Alexander coll. B.M. Reg. No. 1911.12.23.3308.

Range. Gribingui, Shari, Kemo, and Tomi rivers, French Equatorial Africa.

Obs. A single bird obtained near Pania Mutombo, Kasai, South Central Belgian Congo, by Mrs. Robey, is rather duskier than this race and I have not been able to name it.

Euprinodes rufigularis angolensis, subsp. nov.

Adult female. Most nearly allied to *E. rufigularis* (Fraser) from Fernando Po and Cameroon, but considerably paler on the throat ; head and mantle greyer and bill shorter.

A small series was collected at Ndala Tando by Ansorge. All were females except one, and I have therefore made a female the type, in case the sex of the bird labelled male had been incorrectly determined.

Bill 10 ; wing 45 ; tail 40, tarsus 16 mm.

Type in the British Museum, ♀ ad. Ndala Tando, N. Angola, 29 Oct., 1908, W. J. Ansorge coll. B.M. Reg. No. 1910.5.6.918.

Obs. I am not in agreement with Mr. W. R. Ogilvie-Grant that *E. schistacea* Cassin is but the male of *E. rufigularis* (Fraser) ; although we have no females of *E. schistacea*, we have three males of *E. rufigularis* which show the sexes to be very similar in coloration.

On behalf of Count N. Gyldenstolpe, Mr. David Bannerman exhibited a number of new birds, which Count Gyldenstolpe had obtained during the Swedish Central African Expedition of 1920–1921. The expedition was under the leadership of H.R.H. Prince Wilhelm of Sweden, and Count Gyldenstolpe had forwarded the following brief account of the journey and of the results obtained :—

"From Entebbe we marched through Uganda (Ankole) and British Ruanda (the Kigesi District) straight to the Birunga Volcanoes, north of Lake Kivu. These volcanoes are eight in number, and two are in activity, viz., the two western ones. We camped at several places on the different mountains, of which the highest (Karissimbi) is about 4500 metres. Our highest camp was situated at an approximate altitude of about 3800 metres, and during our two and a half months' stay among the mountains we

collected a considerable number of rare and interesting birds and mammals. The bird-fauna strongly approaches that of Ruwenzori, though a few endemic forms occur. Among other rarities, I collected a pair of *Francolinus nobilis* Rchw., formerly only known from the female type. Also a fine series of *Nectarinia dartmouthi* or a closely-allied race.

"From the Volcanic Region we went down to Lake Kivu and explored the northern and north-western shores. Then we started northwards to the Rutshuru and the Ruindi Plains, where we had most excellent big-game shooting. Lions were very common. We then crossed Lake Edward in canoes following the western shores, and camped for more than a month in the Great Congo Forest west of the Semliki Valley before continuing our journey northwards to Irumu in the Ituri District. From there I again made a month's trip to the Equatorial Forest and put up my tent near a Wambutti village. On our return journey we crossed Lake Albert and went down the Nile to Cairo. In all we spent 8 months in the wilds, and our collections consist of about 1700 birds, 1000 mammals—among which is a fine series of Mountain Gorillas shot on the different mountains of the Birunga Range,—hundreds of reptiles and amphibians, and several thousands of insects."

Count Gyldenstolpe had forwarded the following notes and descriptions of the new birds obtained, which were communicated to the Club by Mr. Bannerman :—

On the West African form of Passer griseus *Vieillot.*

Vieillot originally described his *Fringilla grisea* (Nouv. Dict. xii. p. 198, 1817) from a specimen said to have been obtained in the United States. This locality is, however, certainly erroneous, and Senegal has to be substituted.

In 'Revue Zoologique,' vol. ii. p. 45 (1839), Lesson described his *Pyrgita gularis* on a specimen from Senegal. This latter form is apparently the same as *Fringilla grisea*

Vieill., as Lafresnaye states (Rev. Zool. 1839, p. 95) that:—"Ce moineau du Sénégal est depuis long-temps dans ma collection sous le nom de *Fringilla grisea*, qui le décrit exactement, mais en lui donnant pour habitat les États-Unis." We may, therefore, accept Lafresnaye's statement as to the type-locality.

Thus *Pyrgita gularis* Lesson becomes a synonym of the older *Fringilla grisea*. In 1837 Swainson (Birds of West Afr. i. p. 208, 1837) had already described a Senegal bird as *Pyrgita simplex*, but this name cannot be used for this bird, as Swainson states that he named the Senegal form *P. simplex* on the authority of Rüppell. *Fringilla simplex* Lichtenstein is quite a different species, and as Swainson considers his *Pyrgita simplex* to be the same as *Fringilla simplex* Lichtenstein, this name cannot be attributed to the West African representative of this group. That induced Shelley ('Ibis,' 1883, p. 548) to rename the West African form as *Passer occidentalis*. But this name, again, cannot be used, as it refers to Swainson's description of *Pyrgita simplex*, which also came from Senegal. Shelley had only a single unlabelled specimen at his disposition when he proposed the name *P. occidentalis*, but later on ('Birds of Africa,' iii. p. 254, 1902) he stated that the specimen was obtained at Lukoja in Nigeria by Forbes.

Thus *Fringilla grisea* Vieillot, *Pyrgita simplex* Swainson, *Pyrgita gularis* Lesson, and *Passer occidentalis* Shelley are all referable to the Senegal form, which accordingly must be known as *Passer griseus griseus* Vieillot, with the other names mentioned above as pure synonyms.

The race of *Passer griseus* from Lower Guinea, Cameroon, Congo, and Benguela is then without a name, and, as it differs in several respects from the form inhabiting Upper Guinea and Senegal, I propose to name it

Passer griseus zedlitzi, nom. nov.

Diagnosis. More or less intermediate between *Passer griseus ugandæ* Rchw. and *Passer griseus griseus* Vieill., though considerably less rufous on the upper parts; colour

of crown and nape much greyer, though not as pure grey as in the Senegal birds ; shoulder-patch darker rufous—almost rufous chestnut,—much darker than in either *P. g. griseus* of *P. g. ugandæ* ; underparts of the body similar to those of the Senegal form, but flanks darker and more tinged with buff (in *P. g. ugandæ* almost the whole of the underparts are washed with sandy buff) ; size larger than in typical *P. g. griseus*—wings 80–86 mm. against 76–78 mm. in the Senegal birds and 83–87 mm. in Uganda specimens.

Dimensions of type. Wing 86 mm. ; tail 73 mm. ; culmen 13 mm. ; tarsus 18 mm.

Type. Adult male, collected near Benguela town, Angola, 23rd Oct., 1905, by W. J. Ansorge. Type in the R. Nat. Hist. Museum at Stockholm (Coll. Zedlitz).

Eremomela badiceps ituricus, subsp. nov.

Diagnosis. Similar to typical *E. b. badiceps* Fraser, from Fernando Po and Cameroon, but differs by its much more greyish underparts, this grey colour almost occupying the entire underparts, only leaving a rather narrow central area creamy white, while in typical *E. b. badiceps* the underparts are mostly creamy white throughout, only the flanks and sides of the body being greyish. Chin and throat more pure white and less creamy. Thighs greyish-brown instead of reddish-brown. The reddish-brown colour of the forehead and crown somewhat more extended backwards, almost covering the whole crown.

Dimensions of type. Total length 113 mm. ; wing 52 mm. ; tail 39 mm. ; culmen 10 mm. ; bill from gape 15 mm. ; tarsus 16 mm.

Type. Adult male, collected at Simbo in the Ituri forest, west of Irumu, 22nd June, 1921, by N. Gyldenstolpe. Type in the R. Nat. Hist. Museum at Stockholm.

Remarks. Van Someren recently separated birds from N. Kavirondo and S. Elgon as *E. b. turneri* (Bull. Brit. Ornith. Club, xl. p. 92, 1920) on account of their smaller size and much darker upper parts. Wing 49 mm. The

Ituri birds cannot be referred to *E. b. turneri*, as they are not darker above nor smaller than typical West African specimens.

Apalis porphyrolæma vulcanorum, subsp. nov.

Diagnosis. Similar to *A. p. porphyrolæma* Rchw. & Neum. from Eldoma and its allies—*A. p. affinis* Og.-Grant from Ruwenzori and *A. p. goslingi* Alex. from Goruba River, Welle Prov.,—but differing from all in having the back, mantle, and upper tail-coverts very distinctly tinged with olive instead of being pure dark ashy grey. Wings dark brown tinged with olive-grey on the outer webs of the inner secondaries. Rectrices brownish, the outermost three pairs tipped with greyish white. Chin and upper throat dark cinnamon rufous followed by a fairly well-defined whitish band. Breast ashy grey. Under tail-coverts whitish, the feathers margined and tipped with cinnamon-buff. Remainder of underparts whitish, strongly washed with olive-grey, only the centre of the lower abdomen pure white. Bases of feathers on the abdomen pure black, this colour showing through when the plumage is disordered. Crown of head dark grey, in well-marked contrast to the colour of the back. Ear-coverts and lores darker, more blackish. A narrow moustachial streak chestnut-brown, rather well-defined from the dark cinnamon of the chin and throat. Under wing-coverts silky white, the feathers tipped with rufous cinnamon.

Dimensions of type. Total length 119 mm.; wing 52 mm.; tail 58 mm.; culmen 10 mm.; bill from gape 14 mm.; tarsus 18 mm.

Type. Adult female collected on Mount Sabinio, Birunga Volcanoes, Kivu District, 20th Feb., 1921, by N. Gyldenstolpe (altitude 3600 metres). Type in the R. Nat. Hist. Museum at Stockholm.

Criniger chloronotus weileri, subsp. nov.

Diagnosis. Most closely allied to *C. c. chloronotus* Cass. from French Congo and Cameroon, but differs in having the

head darker, almost blackish against dark grey. Feathers of head with still darker median parts. Back and mantle darker olive-green and less tinged with yellowish. White on throat less pure, more creamy, and also of less extent. Centre of abdomen only mixed with a few dull yellowish feathers, not pale yellow as in the typical race. Under tail-coverts dull ochraceous instead of rusty yellow. Primaries and secondaries margined with darker green on the outer webs of the feathers.

Dimensions of type. Total length 213 mm.; wing 107 mm.; tail 93 mm.; culmen 18 mm.; bill from gape 24 mm.; tarsus 22 mm.

Type. Adult female, collected at Campi ya Wambutti, Ituri forest, west of Irumu, 11th June, 1921, by N. Gyldenstolpe. Type in the R. Nat. Hist. Museum at Stockholm.

Named in honour of Major M. Weiler, one of the Belgian officers attached to H.R.H. Prince Wilhelm of Sweden during the Expedition.

Trochocercus nigromitratus intensus, subsp. nov.

Diagnosis. Similar to *T. n. nigromitratus* Rchw. from Cameroon, but easily distinguished by having the upper as well as the underparts of the body dark bluish-grey, considerably darker than in the typical form. Lower abdomen and under tail-coverts only very slightly paler and less bluish than same parts in the typical race. Secondaries rather broadly margined with dark bluish-grey on the outer webs. Rectrices blackish, distinctly margined with dark bluish-grey, this latter colour most distinct on the upper half of the feathers. Size slightly smaller than typical *T. n. nigromitratus.* Wings 59 mm. against 62–65 mm. From *T. n. toroensis* Jacks. it differs by the total absence of a white area on the abdomen.

Dimensions of type. Total length 141 mm.; wing 59 mm.; tail 61 mm.; culmen 11 mm.; bill from gape 16 mm.; tarsus 15 mm.

Type. Adult female, collected at Kartoushi, Semliki Valley, Kivu District, 7th May, 1921, by N. Gyldenstolpe. Type in the R. Nat. Hist. Museum at Stockholm.

Alseonax infulatus ruandæ, subsp. nov.

Diagnosis. Similar to *A. i. infulatus* Hartl. from the Upper White Nile, but easily distinguished by its larger size and its more whitish underparts. A distinct pure black spot in front of the eyes. Upper parts of the body less dark, as in *A. i. infulatus*. Bill longer, less broad than that of the typical form, and more tapering off towards the tip.

Dimensions of type. Total length 145 mm.; wing 74 mm.; tail 61 mm.; culmen 12 mm.; bill from gape 18 mm.; tarsus 15 mm.; bill at gape 7·5 mm.

Type. Adult male, collected at Bufundi, Lake Bunyoni, Kigezi District, British Ruanda, 31st Jan., 1921, by N. Gyldenstolpe. Type in the R. Nat. Hist. Museum at Stockholm.

Remarks. Quite common along the shores of Lake Bunyoni, where it frequented the tall reed-beds.

Alseonax infulatus ngomæ, subsp. nov.

Diagnosis. Intermediate in size between typical *A. i. infulatus* Hartl. and *A. i. ruandæ* described above, but differing from both by having the sides of the body and greater portion of abdomen tinged with light rufous-brown, only leaving a small area on the centre of the abdomen pure white. Breast brownish, more rufous, and less greyish-brown than in either *A. i. infulatus* or *A. i. ruandæ*. This colour also extends further down the belly than in these two forms. Axillaries and under wing-coverts bright cinnamon, much brighter than in the allied races. Bill rather strong, broader at gape than in the species mentioned.

Dimensions of type. Total length 140 mm.; wing 71 mm.; tail 66 mm.; culmen 11 mm.; bill from gape 16 mm.; breadth of bill at gape 9 mm.; tarsus 15 mm.

Type. Adult male, collected at Ngoma, Lake Kivu

2nd March, 1921, by N. Gyldenstolpe. Type in the R. Nat. Hist. Museum at Stockholm.

Remarks. Quite common in suitable localities along the northern shores of Lake Kivu.

Cryptolopha wilhelmi, sp. nov.

Diagnosis. A very distinct form, apparently most closely allied to *Cryptolopha alpina* Og.-Grant from Ruwenzori.

General colour above brownish-olive (*Ridgway*), with a slight greenish wash to the feathers of the back and mantle; upper tail-coverts the same but somewhat lighter; whole head and nape olive-brown, in rather marked contrast to the colour of the back; scapulars like the back; lesser wing-coverts brown, strongly margined and tipped with greenish; remaining wing-coverts similar but less distinctly margined; primaries dark brown, strongly margined with olive-yellow on the outer webs; secondaries the same, but more distinctly and more broadly margined with olive-yellow; rectrices above dark brown, broadly edged with olive-yellow and with blackish-brown shafts; rectrices below paler brown, with white shafts; some of the outer tail-feathers narrowly tipped with white; a tawny-buff supercilium extending from the base of the nostrils to some short distance behind the eyes; in front of the eyes a dark brown patch; ear-coverts tawny-buff with paler shafts; small feathers round the eyes paler buff; chin and throat light buffy-grey, becoming ashy-buff on the fore neck and upper breast; sides of the body and flanks light brownish-ashy; centre of lower breast, abdomen, and under tail-coverts dirty whitish, the latter with a creamy tint; under wing-coverts pale buff, becoming citron-yellow on the edge of the wing; axillaries and thighs brownish-ashy; quills below dark brown, paler at the edge of the inner webs.

Dimensions of type. Total length 126 mm.; wing 64 mm.; tail 55 mm.; culmen 9 mm.; bill from gape 13 mm.; tarsus 21 mm. Iris dark brown. Bill: upper mandible horn, lower mandible yellowish-horn. Legs brown.

Type. Adult male, collected on Mount Muhavura, Birunga Volcanoes, on the 10th Feb., 1921, by N. Gyldenstolpe (altitude 3200 metres). Type in the R. Nat. Hist. Museum at Stockholm.

Remarks. This fine Flycatcher only occurred on the higher slopes of the Birunga Volcanoes, mostly inhabiting the upper forest- and the heath-zones, where it was not uncommon. All the specimens obtained are fairly similar *inter se*, and the sexes are alike.

Named in honour of H.R.H. Prince Wilhelm of Sweden, the leader of the Swedish Central African Expedition, 1920–21.

Nectarinia famosa vulcanorum, subsp. nov.

Diagnosis. Differs from *N. f. œneigularis* Sharpe, from East Africa, by its more greenish, less golden, upper parts, and by having a shorter and less curved bill. Underparts also more bluish. Size slightly smaller. Wings 68–72 mm. against 74–76 mm. in *N. f. œneigularis*. Culmen 27–29 mm. against 30–31 mm. in the East African form.

Dimensions of type. Total length 205 mm.; wing 72 mm.; tail 57 mm.; elongated central rectrices 115 mm.; culmen 27 mm.; bill from gape 29 mm.; tarsus 16 mm.

Type. Adult male, collected on Mount Sabinio, Birunga Volcanoes, on 21st Feb., 1921, by N. Gyldenstolpe (altitude 2600 metres). Type in the R. Nat. Hist. Museum at Stockholm.

Remarks. The females do not differ from those of the East African race. This beautiful Sun-bird was fairly abundant on the lower slopes of the Birunga Volcanoes.

On behalf of Dr. Van Someren, Dr. Hartert exhibited a new subspecies of African Finch, which the former described as follows :—

Sorella emini guasso, subsp. nov.

Differs from *S. emini emini* from the country of the Victoria Nyanza and Nile Province in being paler throughout.

Type. ♂ adult, Archer's Post, N. Guasso Nyiro, N.E. Kenia, April 1919. In Tring Museum, Dr. Van Someren Coll.

Habitat. The more open bush and thorn country of the region.

Distribution. The country round the N. Guasso Nyiro River and Northern Frontier.

Observation. I drew attention to the possibility of the Kenia birds being separable from the typical species in my paper on African Birds in Novit. Zoologicæ, xxix., April 1922, p. 166. It has been my good fortune to secure eight specimens of this new race, and these corroborate my former opinion.

Mr. Tom Iredale communicated the following note :— According to the decision of the 'Systema Avium' Committee to accept the American Ornithologists' Union Code in connection with the rejection of names of like origin and significance which differ in gender only, *i.e.* ending in *-us* and *-a*, I propose the new genus name

Mathewsiella,

with *Craspedophora magnifica claudia* Mathews as type.

This was referred to the genus *Craspedophora* Gray, List Genera Birds, 1st ed. 1840, add. and errata, p. 1, but there is a prior *Craspedophorus* of Hope, Coleopt. Manual, vol. ii. pp. 91, 165 (1838).

The Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain made some remarks on the results of his second expedition to Spitsbergen during the summer of 1922. On this occasion he was accompanied by Major W. M. Congreve and Mr. B. W. Tucker, and a very remarkable feature was the extraordinary difference in the conditions during the past season from the previous one. The whole of the west coast of Spitsbergen from South Cape to the north end of Prince Charles' Foreland was blocked by a vast icefield, from ten to twenty or thirty miles wide, and covering an area of about 2000 square miles. On account

of this obstacle it was not possible to get into Ice Fjord until June 28th, and a great part of the south-west coast was still completely blocked by ice in mid-July. Among the more interesting results of the trip were the discovery of new breeding colonies of Turnstone (*Arenaria i. interpres*) at different localities in Ice Fjord; the Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*) was also found to be resident in small numbers at several points in the same district. An enormous colony of Brunnich's Guillemot, Little Grebe, and Kittiwake was also visited, and the Arctic Puffin (*Fratercula a. naumanni*) was found breeding on the side of a mountain, well over a mile from the sea; while other birds were seen flying inland up the valley, evidently to their nesting-places. Another extremely interesting discovery was that of a small colony of two pairs of Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*) breeding among Arctic Terns, while a third pair was seen on the wing off the mouth of Ice Fjord. This species has only twice previously been found nesting in Spitsbergen. Mr. Jourdain exhibited some fine photographs of Arctic bird-life by Major Congreve and Mr. Tucker, including two pictures of the Barnacle-Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) on the nest, and gave a description of the extraordinary difficulties which must be surmounted by the goslings before they can reach their feeding-grounds in the marshes 1200–1300 feet below the nests. Some of the young of the Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) can only reach the feeding-ground after being swept along for half a mile in a torrent, in which it would seem impossible for them to survive. In conclusion, Mr. Jourdain stated that while in 1897 Trevor-Battye was only able to catalogue 29 species from Spitsbergen, and Koenig in his great work had raised the number to 58, no fewer than 67 forms were now known to have occurred on the group.

With reference to Mr. P. F. Bunyard's two communications to the 'Bulletin' (xlii. p. 144, and *antea* p. 14) on the supposed breeding of the Grey-headed Wagtail (*Motacilla flava thunbergi*) in Kent, the Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain said

that it had always been an accepted principle in investigating ornithological records, that they should be supported by confirmatory evidence when put forward by those pecuniarily interested in them (*e.g.*, by professional taxidermists). Records of rare birds from such sources are not accepted unless examined in the flesh by competent and disinterested ornithologists. The occurrence of the two specimens of *M. flava thunbergi* is not disputed, but there is no scrap of evidence to connect them with the nest and eggs—or, indeed, that they were breeding at all—beyond the word of the taxidermist who shot and sold them. Moreover, if the record were genuine, it follows that a pair of an Arctic subspecies had crossed the intervening territory of *M. flava flava* and settled down to nest in that of a third race, *M. flava rayi*, considerably before the normal breeding-time. Such a case has no parallel in nature. In all probability the presence of the female *M. f. thunbergi* in the neighbourhood of a nest of *M. f. rayi* was purely accidental.

Mr. J. D. La Touche forwarded the following descriptions of new subspecies of Chinese birds :—

Cryptolopha burkii distincta, subsp. nov.

Similar in general appearance to *C. b. tephrocephala* Anderson, but smaller, the crown pure grey and *black*, the coronal grey and the enclosing black stripes distinct and well defined, the black stripes starting from the base of the bill. In three out of seven examples examined, the forehead is almost grey like the crown, but in the four others this part is more or less green. The eye-ring is complete, but narrow, the sides of the head are rich dark green. The outer rectrices as in *C. t. tephrocephala*.

It differs from *C. t. intermedia* of N.W. Fohkien in its larger bill and in the colour of the head. *C. t. intermedia* has the forehead green, the centre of the crown pale grey with a slight admixture of green, and an interrupted eye-ring.

Wing, ♂ 52–57, ♀ 50–55·5 mm.

Types. ♂, Mengtz, S.E. Yunnan, 25 March, 1921.
♀, „ „ 21 April, 1921.

Cryptolopha burkii cognita, subsp. nov.

Near *C. burkii burkii* of India, but brighter green above and with brighter yellow underparts. Sides of the head of the same bright green as the crown, the eye-ring broad and interrupted above the eye.

Wing, ♂ 55–59·5, ♀ 52–56 mm.

Types. ♂, Kuatun, N.W. Fohkien, 6 April, 1898. (La Touche Coll.)

♀, Kuatun, N.W. Fohkien, 6 April, 1898. (B.M. Coll.)

Orthotomus sutorius inexpectatus, subsp. nov.

Resembles *O. s. phyllorrhapheus* from Fohkien in the dark shade of the upper parts, but differs from it in having the back bright green and the surface of the tail green without any rufous wash. The underparts are silky white (not pale buff) tinged with buff especially on the breast, the dark grey bases and edging of the neck and breast-feathers showing as dark streaks. The sides of the breast and the flanks are pale greyish olive.

Bill (culmen), ♂ 13, ♀ 12 mm.

Wing, ♂ 48·5–50, ♀ 45–48 mm.

Tail, ♂ 50–55 (winter), 58 mm. (summer); ♀ 36–43 mm.

The central rectrices of males shot in winter are from 3 to 5 mm. longer than the next pair of rectrices. One example shot in summer has the middle rectrix 15 mm. longer than the next pair.

Two males shot in March at Hokow on the Red river resemble the Mengtz birds in colouring, but are much smaller. Culmen 12 mm., wing 44 and 46 mm., tail 46 and 45 mm. The central rectrices in these two birds project 5 and 6 mm. beyond the rest of the tail.

Types. ♂, Mengtz, 18 Nov., 1920.

♀, „ 25 „

Parus major altarum, subsp. nov.

Differs from *Parus major artatus* Thayer & Bangs of Central and North China by its larger size, wide black shaft-stripe on central rectrices, and much whiter side-rectrices. In North China, East and Central China birds, the white on the penultimate rectrix is, at the most, of slight extent, generally very small and sometimes almost invisible; the shaft-stripe of the central rectrices is in these birds very variable and of not much importance. In the Yunnan birds, this shaft-stripe is always well marked and generally wide or very wide, the outermost pair of rectrices is mostly white, and the penultimate pair has a large wedge of white at its extremity, which varies from 18 to 35 mm. in length. The next two pairs have a white terminal speck of greater or less extent, and often the whole tail is tipped with white.

Wing, ♂ 69–75, ♀ 69–72 mm.

Types. ♂, Mengtz, 21 Oct., 1920.
♀, „ 6 „

Parus tibetanus Hartert is said to have a very white tail, but is a larger bird, measuring 78 mm.

Corvus corone yunnanensis, subsp. nov.

The S.E. Yunnan Carrion-Crow differs from the N.E. Chihli (Chinwangtao) bird in having a much more slender and less convex bill. The feathers of the mantle are shot with green, the upper breast-feathers are more lanceolate, and the underparts are less glossy.

Wing, ♂ 344 (2) and 356 (2) mm., ♀ 282–336 mm.

Culmen, ♂ 53–57 mm., ♀ 50–54 mm.

Height of bill at nostril, ♂ 18·5–19·5 mm., ♀ 16·5–19 mm.

Types. ♂, Mengtz, S.E. Yunnan, 2 March, 1921.
♀, „ „ „ 26 Oct., 1920.

This Crow is resident at Mengtz and also, I believe, on all the plateaux as far as Yunnan-fu (alt. 4000–6000 ft.).

The bird found in N.E. Chihli has a stout, rather convex, and short bill, the mantle is shot with violet-blue, and the breast-feathers seem more rounded than in the Yunnan bird.

An adult male measures :—Wing 356 mm., culmen 50 mm. height of bill at nostril 22 mm.

Picus canus yunnanensis, subsp. nov.

Like *Picus c. jacobsi* of Hupeh, but with more golden-yellow on the upper parts and much larger. It differs from *P. c. ricketti* in being of a much brighter green, in having the coronal red of less extent, and in its much larger size. It is widely removed by its bright colouring from *P. c. sordidior* Rippon, of W. Yunnan.

Wing, ♂ 156 mm., ♀ 150·5 mm.

Types. ♂, Milati (5000 ft.), S.E. Yunnan, 20 Jan., 1921.
♀, „ „ „ 15 „

Four males and four females from Yunnan-fu and Kopao tsun, 6000 ft., are of much the same proportion, but are in worn plumage with very tawny underparts. Wing, ♂ 154, 154, 155, 159 mm., ♀ 153, 154, 155, 159 mm.

Dryobates pygmæus permixtus, subsp. nov.

Nearest to *D. p. obscurus* from the S.E. Yunnan–Tongking border, but larger and with as much white on the back and wings as *D. p. kaleensis* of Fohkien. From the latter it differs in its very dusky underparts and very heavy striping.

Wing, ♂ ad. 102 (Milati), 107 mm.
♀ „ 105, 108·5 mm.
♂ jun. 101·5 mm., ♀ jun. 100, 103 mm.

Types. ♂, Milati (5000 ft.), 21 Jan., 1921.
♀, Kopaotsun (6000 ft.), 31 May, 1921.

I find it quite impossible to unite this bird with *D. p. kaleensis* or *D. p. obscurus*. We have, therefore, in S.E. Yunnan, three closely allied pygmy Woodpeckers, each of them inhabiting a different district :—

Dryobates p. obscurus.	Very dark and small.	Hokow (Tongking Frontier).
„ „ *kaleensis.*	Milati (5000 ft.) (Mengtz vicinity).	
„ „ *permixtus.*	Kopaotsun and Yunnan-fu (6000 ft.), in winter down to Milati.	

Lord Rothschild described a new subspecies of African Flycatcher as follows :—

Empidornis semipartitus orleansi, subsp. nov.

Intermediate in size between *E. semipartitus semipartitus* from Abyssinia and *E. s. kavirondensis*, with which it agrees in the generally darker throat and chest. Wings 92–95 mm. Wings of *E. s. semipartitus* 85–89 mm., of *E. s. kavirondensis* 96–101 mm. Tails of *E. s. orleansi* about 84–85 mm., of *E. s. semipartitus* 76–80 mm., of *E. s. kavirondensis* 85–92 mm.

Hab. Upper Nile: Rejaf (*Duc d'Orleans*), Gondokoro (*L. M. Seth-Smith*), Nimule (*R. Grauer, L. M. Seth-Smith*).

Type. ♂ ad., Rejaf, 20. ii. 1922, Duc d'Orleans coll. In the Tring Museum.

Named in honour of the Duc d'Orleans.

Lord Rothschild also exhibited two very rare Owls from South Abyssinia, *Bubo capensis dilloni* Prev. & De Murs and *Asio abyssinicus* Guér. The *Asio* was the third specimen to reach Great Britain. These two birds had been subject to a great amount of nomenclatorial confusion. The *Asio* has been called *Bubo abyssinicus*, which name Dr. Bowdler Sharpe afterwards quite wrongly applied to the RED phase of *Bubo africanus cinerascens* Guér. Dr. Reichenow placed the name *dilloni* as a synonym of *Bubo maculosus cinerascens* = *africanus cinerascens*, and declared that *B. capensis* did not occur in Abyssinia. He further identified the true *capensis dilloni* as *Bubo ascalaphus* Sav. All this was finally cleared up by Prof. Oscar Neumann, who also shot the example of *Asio abyssinicus* now exhibited.

Lord Rothschild further exhibited an example (one of three), collected in Abyssinia by Mr. Kovács, of *Asio capensis* (Smith). This was the most northern occurrence of the typical race, as the bird found in Algeria, Morocco, and South Spain was a distinct local race. As the two birds

described by Sir Andrew Smith were placed respectively in the genera *Otus* and *Scops*, and there was no *Asio* described as *abyssinicus*, Mr. Sclater's proposed new name is unnecessary.

Lord Rothschild then exhibited a white variety of *Scopus umbretta bannermani* C. Grant.

Dr. C. B. Ticehurst forwarded the following communication :—

In the 'Bulletin' for October 1920 (xli. p. 12–13) I described a new Reed-Warbler from Mesopotamia under the name of *Acrocephalus babylonicus*, and before doing so I thought I had exhausted all possibilities that this remarkable bird had never been described before. In the summer of this year, Mr. A. T. Goodson, of Tring Museum, kindly forwarded for my inspection a Reed-Warbler recently collected by Mr. Loveridge in Tanganyika Territory at Kilosa (about 150 miles west of Dar-es-Salaam), together with the type of *Calamoherpe griseldis* Hartl., and drew my attention to the fact that these two specimens were not different to my *A. babylonicus*. On comparing these with one of the Mesopotamian skins I find I must concur, there being, allowing for slight colour-differences due to different times of year in which the African and Mesopotamian specimens were obtained, no difference whatsoever. In 1920 I did not know that Hartlaub's type was unique and that it was in the Tring Museum, and I was misled into thinking that it belonged to the resident African Reed-Warbler group (*Calamocichla*) with quite different wings (*cf.* Sharpe, 'Hand-list,' iv. p. 206). Hartlaub's type of *C. griseldis* was obtained by Emin Pasha (no date) at Nguru (just north of Kilosa) and is described in Abh. Nat. Ver. Bremen, xii. p. 7 (1891). Mr. Loveridge's bird is labelled ♀, Kilosa, 12. ii. 21. Henceforth, therefore, this bird must be known as *Acrocephalus griseldis* (Hartl.). But out of my mistake comes good! and two mysteries are cleared up, for it seems pretty clear now that this bird is a migrant breeding in a restricted

area in Mesopotamia and wintering in a restricted area in what was formerly called German East Africa. I still consider that this bird stands best as a *species*, and not as a race of *A. arundinaceus*.

Mr. H. M. Wallis gave an interesting account of some birds observed by him and Dr. Joy during May last at the Reading Corporation Sewage Farm.

Of these, four Stilts were the most remarkable ; but in addition there were unusually large flocks of Snipe and Lapwing, while Greenshanks, Redshanks, Green Sandpiper, Common Sandpiper, Curlew-Sandpiper, Spotted Redshank, Ruffs, Ringed Plover, Turnstone, Dunlin, Little Stint, Grey Phalarope, Shoveller, Wild Geese (sp. ?), and Mallard contributed to form a most unusual assemblage of wild fowl.

It is to be hoped that the Reading Corporation will see to it that their sewage-farm is regarded as a strictly preserved sanctuary.

The next Meeting of the B. O. C. will be held on Wednesday, the 13th of December, 1922, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, the Dinner at 7 p.m. Members intending to dine are requested to inform the Hon. Secretary, Mr. C. W. Mackworth-Praed, 51 Onslow Gardens, S.W. 7.

[N.B.—Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice *beforehand* to the Editor at Nat. Hist. Museum, South Kensington, and to place in his hands *not later than at the meeting* MSS. for publication in the Bulletin.]

(Signed)

W. L. Sclater, *Chairman.* Percy R. Lowe, *Editor.*

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCLXXIII.

JAN 29 1923

THE TWELFTH OOLOGICAL DINNER *.

The Twelfth Oological Dinner was held at Pagani's Restaurant on March 15th, 1922. Mr. H. Munt took the Chair in the absence of Lord Rothschild.

The evening was devoted to the "Cuckoo Problem," and all members of the B. O. C. were invited to attend. About 80 members and their guests were present.

A paper by Mr. Stuart Baker had already appeared in the 'Bulletin of the B. O. C.,' and Mr. Edgar Chance read the following paper replying to it :—

In Mr. Stuart Baker's very interesting paper on the Cuckoo, he selects for discussion eight out of the many fascinating problems with which Cuckoos have puzzled mankind all down the ages.

In my recently published book I express my opinion upon many more than the eight points selected by Mr. Baker. The ten drawers of exhibits which I have the pleasure of showing here to-night provide evidence upon, if not in every

* [As this matter is the report of the discussion following on the paper read by Mr. Stuart Baker on "Cuckoo Problems" which has already appeared in the 'Bulletin of the B. O. C.' (vol. xlii. pp. 93–112), it is thought advisable that it should appear in the same publication.—Ed.]

case complete answers to, seven out of Mr. Baker's eight questions, so, to begin with, I will touch upon the sixth query: "How do Cuckoos deposit their eggs in the nest?"

I have never suggested that our organised investigations have proved where all Cuckoos lay their eggs and how all Cuckoos deposit them, but we have proved to the satisfaction of every one of those who last season watched *our* Cuckoos lay, and to the great majority who have yet seen the Film, that in each instance the Cuckoo sat upon the nest and laid her egg directly in it.

I really must here take exception to Mr. Baker's rather imaginative description of what he tells us he has seen by watching the Film. He refers to the bird obviously having something in her gullet sufficient to distend it and make the feathers all stick out. Mr. Baker argues that this in all probability is her own egg, whereas, in point of fact, many of my friends who are here to-night, and who have seen the performance in real life, will explain that the Cuckoo ruffles her feathers and distends her throat merely in self-defence against the attacks of the foster-birds.

Mr. Baker goes on to describe how, when the Cuckoo comes out from the nest, with the foster-bird's egg visible in her bill, her throat is relaxed and her feathers lie flat. The Film is shortly going to be on circuit at the Picture Houses, and I ask you then to notice carefully the rapidity with which the Cuckoo, after laying, backs out from the nest and flies away. The movements at that stage are far too rapid to see whether her throat is relaxed or distended, or in what state her feathers lie. In fact, the egg in the beak can only be seen by stopping the film and examining sections of it when stationary.

To complete the picture Mr. Baker describes how the Cuckoo gets into the nest as speedily as possible and at once bends down her head under her body. In reality the film shows nothing of the sort, but it does show the tail being pressed tightly down over the edge of the nest, just at the moment when she is laying, after she has been sitting on the nest a few seconds and immediately before she begins backing out.

I crave your pardon for having referred to this matter with some emphasis, but I must protest against the distortion of the facts of my now well-known film in order to build up a fantastic and altogether fallacious theory based upon no definite evidence whatsoever.

Never before to my knowledge has any species of Cuckoo designedly been watched at close range in the process of laying her egg, and I am sure those of us who witnessed what we did last year will require proof as definite and as certain as that before accepting any theory as to exactly how Cuckoos deposit their eggs in cases where they obviously cannot lay in the nests of their hosts. There is admittedly no scientific evidence upon the subject yet, nor can there be until the remarkable procedure is deliberately anticipated, watched, and filmed.

By the way, let me here once again correct Mr. Baker in his impression that our Cuckoo observations have been confined to one bird; there is, of course, one "star" performer, whom we call Cuckoo "A," sixty-one of whose eggs are exhibited here this evening, but, besides watching her at very close range lay nearly every one of her fifteen eggs last season, we had ocular demonstration that three other Meadow-Pipit Cuckoos laid their eggs in similar fashion. Altogether there were twenty or more witnesses at one or other of these performances, several of whom are here to-night, and each of whom, I venture to suggest, will smile at anyone who continues to doubt that any of the Meadow-Pipit Cuckoos under observation did other than lay *in* the nests.

I have brought with me here to-night for your inspection my album of photographs, which includes selections from the Film, and also the still photographs taken both by Miss Turner and the cinematographer, Mr. Hawkins.

It is interesting to find that Messrs. Stuart Baker and Bunyard are of the same opinion with regard to the view that our photographs actually support the theory that the Cuckoo regurgitates or "coughs up" her egg into the nest. I cannot, however, understand our friends in this matter, for they have seen the photograph, taken by Miss Turner, of the

Cuckoo whom we called "Mary Pickford" (which laid fourteen eggs for us last year)—a different bird, let it be clearly understood, and not, as Mr. Baker states, that which holds the 61-egg record *. I refer to the photograph showing the Cuckoo holding the egg in the tip of her beak. Miss Turner states that after she had waited a very long time this Cuckoo came down and approached the dummy nest which Mr. Smyth laid down alongside the extremely well-concealed Meadow-Pipit's nest, for which the Cuckoo intended her egg. Imagine Miss Turner's tense excitement as she waited and watched the Cuckoo approach the nest, put her head down, and pick up an egg. Miss Turner immediately released her shutter, which caught the Cuckoo in the act, but the click of the camera frightened her, and, instead of sitting down upon the nest to lay her egg, she flew away with the egg she had taken from the dummy nest in her beak. Miss Turner came out of her hide, and found that there was one less egg in the nest than before the Cuckoo's visit and, of course, no egg of the Cuckoo.

That the Cuckoo intended to lay in that nest is proved by the fact that nearly two hours later the Cuckoo returned, and was this time seen by Mr. Smyth to approach the nest and in precisely similar fashion remove another egg, then settle down on the nest and, in the usual space of about eight seconds, lay her own egg in exchange.

I hope Mr. Baker or Mr. Bunyard will tell us later on this evening how that Cuckoo proposed to "cough up" her own egg into the nest in exchange for the one she had already taken, and continued to hold in her beak, from the dummy nest!

If another illustration is needed, in my album of photographs you will find one of the same Cuckoo, "Mary Pickford," actually sitting upon the nest in the act of laying her 11th egg, with the maternal Meadow-Pipit standing by. That photograph was taken by Mr. Hawkins, who watched the Cuckoo throughout the whole proceeding.

If the Cuckoo regurgitates the egg, where is the necessity

* [Cuckoo "A" laid the record number of 25 eggs in 1922—her fifth season.—E. P. C., Dec. 1922.]

for her consistently to sit for anything like one to three hours concentrating her attention upon the victim's nest, for if she regurgitates the egg she must have it in her gullet or crop all this while. Remember that we have watched this business now during the last two seasons on over twenty occasions, whereas it is a fact that no one else has ever watched it once in similar fashion. By "watching," I mean finding the Cuckoo hours in advance of the time at which we know she is going to lay, and keeping that Cuckoo under absolutely continuous observation without even a second's break for the whole period, no matter whether it be for one hour or three hours, until the Cuckoo flies down to lay. In no case does she fly down meanwhile and settle on the ground, and therefore, according to our friends, the Cuckoos we have watched must have laid hours previously and are content to sit and fly about all that time with eggs either in their throats or anywhere else except where an egg is understood to be before it is laid, and all this without showing the slightest desire to get rid of the egg earlier!

Mr. Baker appears to find difficulty in believing that a Cuckoo can lay within eight seconds, and yet hold the egg up for hours (not only half an hour) if compelled to do so. I suggest to you that evolution has compelled Cuckoos to acquire this faculty, and that is probably why *Cuculus canorus*, at any rate, lays such a very small egg in comparison with her size.

I will now pass on to the other equally interesting Cuckoo problems by referring you to my exhibits.

In passing, permit me to express the opinion that *very* much safer deductions may be drawn from a close study of Cuckoos' eggs, collected in the systematic fashion which we have adopted, than of eggs which have been casually collected and selected. For example, if a man shows you one or two eggs only out of each season's laying by one Cuckoo, and can exhibit illustrations of such selected Cuckoos' eggs being laid in the nests of *different* species of fosterers, and thereby argues that the Cuckoo does not show any marked preference for any particular foster-bird, it is obvious that he is basing his conclusions on entirely in-

adequate data. He does not know how many eggs his Cuckoo has laid, nor where she has laid them. I suggest to you that the value of the information derived from a study of the exhibits of my Drawers Nos. 1, 2, and 4—and perhaps also a few others—is enormously enhanced for the reason that the eggs represent the entire production in the one case, and almost so in the other, of the Cuckoos in those areas.

Drawers Nos. 1 *and* 2 contain the whole of the sixty-one eggs laid by the now famous Cuckoo "A" in the seasons 1918–21 inclusive, together with all the other Cuckoos' eggs found on her territory during those seasons. On the right-hand side of the second drawer will be found six other Cuckoos' eggs (five by one Cuckoo and one by another) found on the same Common in the year 1916, two years before I commenced my study. These eggs are interesting, in that they prove to my satisfaction that my Cuckoo was not laying here, at any rate, before 1917. The fact that in the year 1918 she allowed Cuckoo "B" to share her territory makes me feel pretty certain that in the year 1918 Cuckoo "A" was in her first season.

My reason for stating this is that I have yet to find two Cuckoos tolerating each other on the same territory and using the same fosterers concurrently for more than one season.

Referring to Mr. Baker's seventh question as to "How many, if any, of the fosterer's eggs do Cuckoos take?" I can assure you that in the years 1920 and 1921 the famous Cuckoo "A" invariably took one egg, and only one, no matter whether the nest contained one or more eggs; as a matter of fact, this Cuckoo showed supreme indifference (and in this I think all Cuckoos are probably the same) as to the contents of the nest, provided there was at least one fresh egg there. Of her first twelve eggs in 1921 three were laid in exchange for the single eggs in the nests of the hosts, three more when the hosts' nests contained two eggs, three when there were three eggs in the hosts' nests, and the other three when the fosterers' nests contained four eggs.

If my theory is a correct one, that a dominating Cuckoo (that is, a Cuckoo possessing a territory) finds her nests while

they are being built, and usually in the very early stages, and indeed lays each egg because she conceives it upon a specific nest which is under construction, then it logically follows that it is a matter of indifference to the Cuckoo as to the contents of the nest when she does lay, but the egg will be laid after the foster-bird has herself begun to lay, for the reason that the Cuckoo follows the foster-bird in her conception of laying. Equally obviously, the Cuckoo will lay her own egg whilst the other eggs are still fresh if it takes a Cuckoo no longer to produce her egg than it does the foster-bird; much as I should like to, however, I must not go into too much detail.

Drawer 4 contains only the eggs taken on, and in the immediate vicinity of, another Common three miles distant from the Common which is the habitat of Cuckoo "A." This drawer contains just half-a-dozen casually collected eggs in the year 1920, as against what we believe to be the whole of all the Cuckoos' eggs laid on that Common the next year, 1921, with the exception of three eggs which we left to hatch for photographic purposes. "Mary Pickford" is the dominating Cuckoo here, and drove off in turn last season no less then four other Cuckoos, which between them laid fewer eggs than she did.

There is a fund of information provided in a close study of these drawers by a careful student. Proof of the attacks made upon the Cuckoos by the irate foster-parents is to be found in the feathers exhibited, which were seen to be plucked from the Cuckoos. The four cases in which "Mary Pickford" and another Cuckoo were persuaded to lay in substitute nests (thanks to the ingenuity of my friend, Mr. Smyth) are illustrated in Drawer 4.

A collective study of Drawers 1, 2, and 4 also raises serious doubts in one's mind as to whether males do really outnumber females. My theory of dominating Cuckoos versus those unable to hold a territory is also admirably illustrated.

Drawer No. 3 contains some interesting specimens of Cuckoos' eggs taken during recent years by my friend Mr. O. R. Owen, of Knighton. There is also in this drawer,

among others, a Cuckoo's egg found in a Chiffchaff's nest by Dr. Rendall and Mr. Pettitt, whilst the Willow-Wren Cuckoo's egg exhibited was found by my brother outside the Willow-Wren's nest. In this latter case, it would appear as though a Cuckoo accustomed to lay in a nest had deposited this egg, and being unable to do so in this case had left it outside.

Drawer No. 6 contains a most interesting lot of Cuckoos' eggs collected by Mr. Lees and his son during last season.

Drawer No. 7 contains the now well-known series of nineteen eggs laid by Mr. G. J. Scholey's Reed-Warbler Cuckoo last year, in her third season.

Drawers Nos. 8 *and* 9 contain many interesting series collected by Mr. E. E. Pettitt.

Drawer No. 11 contains some eggs collected around Evesham. A study of the descriptive matter for this Drawer raises two other interesting questions: (1) as to whether Cuckoos probably victimize that species by which they were themselves reared; and (2) also probably return to the district of their birth. I suggest to you this Drawer throws some light on those matters.

There are many paragraphs in Mr. Baker's paper on which I should like to comment (many with which I am in agreement, and some others which I should have to contest), but you have borne with me long enough to know that it is time I sat down!

Mr. P. F. Bunyard read the following paper:—

I find myself reluctantly drawn into this very controversial but interesting discussion, but having been one of Mr. Chance's keenest critics (though I think he will at least agree that my criticism has been honest) I propose, fearing that silence on this occasion may be misunderstood, to criticize some of Mr. Chance's earlier work, more especially that part which is reported in 'British Birds,' vol. xiv. pp. 218–232, and to conclude my remarks with a brief reference to his work in 1921.

We shall make no progress in the elucidation of this interesting problem by undue criticism, or by prematurely

accepting theoretical claims. A great part of Mr. Chance's observations are based on experience with a single bird, consequently no claim can be, or is, made to apply generally to the habits of the Cuckoo. The Reed-Warbler Cuckoos would necessarily behave in a totally different manner.

After careful study of Mr. Chance's paper, I have looked in vain for some proof that he actually saw the eggs laid, but he states that he saw them deposited, which is quite a different matter, and I doubt, even with the most modern field-glasses, that it would be possible to see exactly what took place at 150 yards, though it would be quite possible to see the bird alight at a given or marked spot.

I see nothing remarkable in a Cuckoo laying over 20 eggs, if we take into consideration the great procreative powers among birds generally.

The Wryneck will, under a similar forcing process, produce up to sixty-two eggs ('History of the Birds of Kent,' p. 231), the Sparrow-Hawk twenty-two, and the Ringed Plover sixteen.

Until we have some concrete proof to the contrary, we must not ignore entirely the possibility of closely related females having produced these 21 eggs.

Bearing in mind the admission that other Cuckoos were seen on this restricted area, the difficulty of ascertaining the proportions of the sexes (except by the notes) when more than one or two are present must be borne in mind.

I have carefully examined and weighed the whole of these eggs, and noted according to the blow-holes the various stages of incubation. The system adopted by Rey, and apparently by Mr. Chance, of dating back incubated eggs is, I consider, both dangerous and inconclusive in arriving at the exact date of deposition, therefore too much importance must not be attached to Rey's theory, *i. e.* that the Cuckoo lays its eggs at intervals of 48 hours.

I have two clutches with two Cuckoos' eggs each, each pair obviously by the same female, and curiously enough both with Yellow-Hammers; the first was taken by Mr. W. L. Leader in Norfolk on June 1, 1908; these two eggs are of a very uncommon type with greenish-blue ground:

weights 206 and 238 mg. Only one egg of the fosterer was with these. I have no reason to doubt the authenticity of the second clutch from N. Devon, May 16, 1901, which has three eggs of the fosterers, the Cuckoos' eggs are large round eggs of a fairly common type : weights 0·269 and 0·244 mg.

There is a record of three Cuckoos' eggs found in the same nest ('Zoologist,' 1906, p. 276), apparently by three different females.

(Mr. Bunyard then proceeded to criticize Mr. Chance's conclusions as summarized in Brit. Birds, xiv. pp. 320–322 in detail, urging that the only new fact recorded was the laying of 21 eggs by one female, which rests on the presumption that they are all the produce of a single bird. Most of the other conclusions, in his opinion, rested upon insufficient evidence or had been previously known and recorded.)

Now as regards the wonderful work accomplished by Mr. Chance and his co-observers during 1921. The film in itself represents a great triumph—a monument of patience and skill. I still maintain, however, that it does not finally prove the most interesting and important point concerning the actual method of deposition : the film and the photos, both of which I have seen, are not convincing proof that the egg was laid in the nest in the normal way. Owing to the herbage round the nest, the Cuckoo was almost concealed from view, rendering it practically impossible to see what actually occurred.

The Cuckoo's egg may well have been regurgitated into the nest before she took up the egg of the fosterer, but I cannot believe that the organs of a bird are so plastic that she can lay an egg at will—and at a moment's notice. *On the other hand, regurgitation would in my opinion be much more easily regulated.*

What Miss Turner actually saw is also, to my mind, equally unconvincing on this particular point.

Mr. Bunyard also exhibited a series of British-taken Cuckoo clutches, representing forty-six foster-parents. Those of particular interest were as follows :—

With Hawfinch. Sussex.
„ Goldfinch. Somerset.
„ House-Sparrow. Northants.
„ Tree-Sparrow. Norfolk.
„ Chaffinch. Kent.
„ Linnet. Sussex, Surrey, Kent.
„ Bullfinch. Surrey.
„ Yellow-Hammer. Two clutches each with *two* eggs *from the same Cuckoo*. Norfolk and Devon.
„ Reed-Bunting. Northants and Kent.
„ Sky-Lark. Surrey.
„ Grey Wagtail. Radnor.
„ Great Titmouse. Sussex. First and only British record *.
„ Red-backed Shrike. Surrey. and Kent.
„ Whitethroat. Surrey †.
With Lesser Whitethroat. Northants.
„ Garden-Warbler. Surrey and Kent.
„ Blackcap. Surrey and Kent.
„ Dartford Warbler. Surrey ‡.
„ Grasshopper-Warbler. Northants.
„ Marsh-Warbler. Worcestershire. Second British record.
„ Chiffchaff. Surrey.
„ Song-Thrush. Sussex.
„ Blackbird. Kent.
„ Redstart. Surrey. Blue Cuckoo's, same colour as fosterer's.
„ Nightingale. Surrey.
„ Whinchat. Surrey.
„ Hedge-Sparrow. Kent §.
„ Wren.
„ Spotted Flycatcher. Kent and Surrey.

Mr. Bunyard also exhibited a clutch of Hedge-Sparrows from Surrey, with a Blue Cuckoo's egg similar in colour to those of the fosterers, all of which were highly incubated.

Mr. Bunyard had carefully examined the embryos, and found that the Cuckoo's egg was quite different to those

* The Tit's nest was placed in a shallow box, which the birds had completely filled with moss etc. The actual nest was placed just inside the corner, the only part of the box left uncovered by other boxes piled on top of a shed.

† Seven clutches containing one Cuckoo each, from the same bird, extending over three seasons, 1916–1918.

‡ Remains of Cuckoo's egg, which had been destroyed, together with those of the fosterer, probably by a mouse.

§ Twelve clutches with one Cuckoo each from the same bird, extending over four seasons, 1907–1910. This Cuckoo was obviously parasitic on the Hedge-Sparrow, but when nests of her natural fosterer were not available she used Blackcap-Warbler three times, Garden-Warbler and Linnet once each.

These are very large distinctive eggs, with blue-green ground richly marked with rich brown.

Maximum weight ..... 0·299 mg.
Minimum „ ..... 0·239 „

of the fosterers and had the typical zygodactyle foot; the embryo of the Cuckoo was much more developed than those of the Hedge-Sparrow.

In 1914 a similar Cuckoo's egg was found in a Hedge-Sparrow's nest in the same locality, and possibly by the same bird, and pronounced by an expert (?) to be a double-yolked Hedge-Sparrow's.

A similar clutch from Saxony is figured in 'Oologia Universalis Palæarctica' (George Krause).

Mr. Stuart Baker made the following remarks :—

In replying to Mr. Chance's very interesting remarks upon my paper and on his own Cuckoo series, I should, I think, commence by saying that Mr. Chance has convinced me that in the case of his pet Cuckoo, as well as the others to which he refers as laying in Pipits' nests, the birds actually did lay the eggs in the nest itself and did not carry them in their throats. I would like, however, to point out that my remarks as to the condition of the Cuckoo's throat are not in any way *imaginative*. If any of you refer to the photographs which Mr. Chance has brought to-night, you will see for yourselves that the Cuckoo before entering the nest does have its throat distended, whereas the birds leaving the nests have it relaxed with the feathers lying flat. True, you will not see this on the actual film, because the movements are too rapid, but in the stationary pictures it is quite evident. In referring to these photographs, I have merely done what Mr. Chance himself has done—used the stationary photographs, which in some cases I believe form part of the actual film, in support of my own impressions, and also to show that Mr. Chance is not quite fair in accusing me of "distorting the facts . . . to build up a fantastic and altogether fallacious theory based upon no definite evidence whatsoever."

Now the theory to which Mr. Chance refers is, I presume, my statement that in the vast majority of cases the Cuckoo does place its egg in the nest by means of its bill. Why Mr. Chance should assert that this is

"fantastic and altogether fallacious" I cannot say, as there is a very large amount of evidence to support it; and I am sure Mr. Chance does not for a moment infer that because the one or more Cuckoos he has watched placed their eggs in the nest in one manner, therefore all Cuckoos must do the same. I would also point out that it is hardly fair of Mr. Chance to say there is no evidence on the subject, merely because he has not read it.

Mr. Chance refers to and deprecates the casual collection of eggs, and I am in complete accord with him in what he says. There is no doubt that work carried out on the absolutely scientific lines and methods adopted by Mr. Chance is of the greatest value, and I hope it will be taken as an example by oologists and egg-collectors; but at the same time I would warn them that they must be very careful not to fall into the mistake of trying to draw general conclusions from the acts of two or three birds. A knowledge of Cuckoos, their eggs, and their life-history can only be obtained in a wide degree by the consideration of many Cuckoos in different countries.

Before closing, I must briefly refer to Mr. Chance's remarks on the Cuckoo's conception of her egg. I am afraid I cannot follow this, but I think our doctor friends will tell us that it is not possible for the finding or non-finding of a suitable nest to in any way retard or advance conception and the development of an egg in the ovaries.

There have been some remarks on my use of the word "regurgitate." Perhaps I am not quite correct in using this term, but what I mean to infer is merely that the bird holds her egg in her gullet somewhere between her beak and the lower part of the throat. Any of you who have examined the Cuckoo's bill and throat will be aware that the bill itself is extraordinarily soft and pliant, and that the skin of the throat is loose and capable of great extension. We are fully aware, from the result of other observers' work and from what I have seen myself, that in many instances the Cuckoo does carry her egg in her bill or throat for some time before depositing it in the nest. Again, that she sometimes lays her egg in the most

extraordinary positions has been well proved, and I have now in my pocket a letter from Dr. A. G. Butler describing how he actually saw a Cuckoo lay her egg on the top of a gate of which the bar was about 1½ inch wide.

Do Mr. Chance's Cuckoos lay their eggs on broad branches of trees?

Mr. Chance has not touched on the most fascinating of all subjects connected with Cuckoos' eggs—*i. e.*, their evolution in regard to colour etc.; but I can sympathize very heartily with him in not attempting to touch on so big a subject with so little time available, and I think that I myself ought to apologize for the crudeness of my own remarks on this subject in my address at the last Annual Dinner of the Union and Club (*cf.* B. O. C. vol. xlii. p. 110).

A general discussion followed, in which many of those present took part.

Colonel R. Sparrow exhibited some rare Cuckoos' eggs and fosterers' from Natal, and an equally interesting series from Deccan; these were nearly all taken by the exhibitor.

Mr. Herbert Massey also showed a magnificent series from his collection, including the following rare British fosterers:—Song-Thrush; Blackbird; Ring-Ouzel; Hawfinch; House-Sparrow; Tree-Sparrow; Twite; Goldfinch; Corn- and Cirl-Buntings; Rock-Pipit; Wood-Lark; and Bearded Tit (the last-mentioned almost unique, only one or possibly two other cases being known).

Mr. Massey's continental series included:—Northern Nightingale; Savi's Warbler; Booted, Bonelli's, Paddyfield, and River-Warblers; Great Tit; Northern Tree-Creeper; Siberian Chiffchaff; Lesser Grey Shrike; Mealy Redpoll; Brambling; Ortolan, Lapland, Yellow-breasted, and Red-headed Buntings; Grey-headed Wagtail; Red-throated Pipit; Crested Lark; and Black Lark—together with a series of six blue Cuckoo eggs, in one case with Chaffinch and in five with Redstarts (Finland, 1900), and a series of six Cuckoos with Garden-Warbler (very fine—Brandenburg, 1893).

Mr. J. M. Goodall then read the following paper on American Cuckoos and Cow-birds :—

Remarks on the Eggs of some Argentine Cuckoos and Argentine and Canadian Cowbirds. Exhibited in Cases Nos. 1 to 5.

With regard to Cuckoos, Case No. 1 shows full clutches 1/9 and 1/11 and 20 other eggs of the Guira Cuckoo (*Guira guira*) collected by me at the Estancia, "Los Alfalfares," Arias, Province of Cordoba, in Oct./Dec. 1907. These eggs (turquoise-blue in colour, splashed with pure white) are perhaps some of the most striking and beautiful known to Science.

The habits of the bird, as well as the eggs, are fully described by Mr. Hudson in 'Argentine Ornithology,' vol. ii. pp. 32–35, and I was able personally to confirm very many of his observations.

Although so well known to those who have had experience with this species, it may not be out of place to mention that a singular habit of the female, previous to nidification (and alluded to by Mr. Hudson), is to lay and waste a clutch, or perhaps more, of eggs on any odd spot (an old partial nest of Dove preferred) in bush or tree, altogether too small to contain the eggs, nearly every one of which falls to the ground and is broken. By watching carefully and arranging beds of moss and soft grass on the ground underneath the spot, or incipient nest, where it was likely the eggs were to be laid, I succeeded in saving, unbroken, half of those now exhibited. Afterwards, on Dec. 3rd, 1907, I found a typical nest, from which the sitting bird flew. It was placed in a willow-tree about 10 feet from the ground, a deep and cup-like structure of twigs and roots and lined with fresh green leaves. The clutch was nine and the eggs slightly incubated. Shape elliptical and average measurements $4 \times 3{\cdot}20$ cms. : texture of shell very close-grained. The other set of eleven (apparently product of two birds) was collected by a relative and sent to me after my departure from "Los Alfalfares."

Black-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus melacoryphus*).

The sets shown, 2/2, 1/3, were also collected at "Los Alfalfares" in 1907, nests being placed in low scrubby bushes, constructed of twigs, very small for the size of the bird and rather flimsy, but rounded and hollow, and not shallow like a Dove's nest. Shape elliptical; colour dull, spotless, very light bluish green. Average measurement 2·95 × 2·60 cms.

Cinereous Cuckoo (*Coccyzus cinereus*).

The 2/3, 1/2 eggs of this species (there is reason to believe the first to be discovered or brought to this country) were collected at the Estancia "La Ethel," Buena Esperanza Province of San Luis, in Dec. 1912, and parent birds identified by close comparison with the coloured plate in 'Argentine Ornithology,' vol. ii. p. 38.

The three nests found were all contemporaneous and in the same neighbourhood—a tract of wild undulating uncultivated land covered with coarse native grass and scattered clumps of short chañar thorns. They were all exactly similar and small for the size of the bird, about 5 inches across, of fine twigs rather compactly woven together, with depression only slightly more pronounced than that of the small Doves, which, in outside structure, they closely resembled.

All three were lined alike with long, dry, thin, soft stripes of whitish-green vegetable fibre, which gave them a singular and characteristic appearance.

They were placed in chañar thorns, from 2 feet 6 inches to 3 feet 6 inches from the ground, and not well concealed, as the first one found was detected quite easily when riding round the thorn on horseback. The eggs are a dull lustreless white, elliptical in shape, the shell thick for their size, very hard, and in texture close-grained. Average measurements 2·55 × 2·05 cms. The eggs of the two sets of three showed incubation in very different stages, and would be apparently laid at considerable intervals—4 or 5 days at least, judging from the difference in size of the embryos.

These two clutches were advanced in incubation, and

unfortunately I had an accident and lost two eggs from one of them. Possibly the set of two (one of which was nearly fresh) might eventually have been a three clutch, but unfortunately, too, the two Dove's eggs substituted in their stead (and upon which the bird continued to sit) were destroyed by vermin before the clutch was complete—or at least any more eggs were laid.

The birds were very shy indeed, and I was obliged to exercise the greatest caution in approaching the nest in order to identify the sitting bird before and as it left the nest. Under no circumstances were any of the parent birds in evidence during one's stay in the vicinity where breeding, or after flushing the sitting bird.

Referring to the eggs of

COWBIRDS,

Case No. 3 embraces the few eggs of the Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) with their respective fosterers I collected in Ottawa, Canada, during my short stay there in May–June 1919. The habits and eggs of this species are well known, and the specimens shown demonstrate very little variation, though I have been given to understand that one of the fosterers (*Turdus migratorius*) is not often victimized. With regard to set No. 3—two eggs of Song-Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) and one of Cowbird—there had apparently been a severe scuffle between the Cowbird and the Song-Sparrows in the immediate vicinity of the nest, the surroundings being greatly disturbed and the nest subsequently abandoned. I found this nest with the two eggs the day before, or the same day perhaps, the Cowbird visited it.

A noteworthy feature of this exhibit is the fact that two female Song-Sparrows were occupying and laying in the nest victimized by the Cowbird (No. 1), and that, having lost their first home, they apparently together built a second one, and laid therein four and two eggs respectively, while surely the same Cowbird inserted her egg in the new nest! I had no opportunity of observing whether this species of Cowbird destroyed or removed any eggs of the fosterers when visiting the nests, so cannot say why both clutches of Song-

Sparrow were short or incomplete ones in the second venture. It will be of interest to note that the two females in question laid respectively the smallest and most heavily pigmented eggs and the largest light green speckled ones encountered by me of the species, representing the extremes of variation, both in size and coloration of the series collected, which comprised, however, thirty-six carefully chosen clutches only. The bird was very abundant in the vicinity. In Case No. 2, sections Nos. 2, 3, 4, and Cases Nos. 4 and 5, are shown eggs of the Argentine Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*) with different fosterers collected by me in the Argentine Republic: in 1907 at the Estancia "Los Alfalfares," Arias, Province of Cordoba, and in 1912 at the Estancia "La Ethel," Buena Esperanza, Province of San Luis. The habits and eggs of this species have been very exhaustively treated of by Mr. Hudson in 'Argentine Ornithology,' vol. i. pp. 72–86, and my experiences (restricted to two short seasons' work) coincide with what is already known, though there is reason to believe I encountered new fosterers in the Red-billed Ground-Finch (*Embernagra platensis*), Yellow-shouldered Song-Sparrow (*Coturniculus peruanus*), and White-banded Mocking-Bird (*Mimus triurus*). Altogether eleven fosterers came under my observation, list of which is appended. One point, Mr. Hudson always found ('Argentine Ornithology,' vol. i. p. 154) that the Scarlet Tyrant-Bird (*Pyrocephalus rubineus*) deserted the nest when victimized by the Cowbird, but in the one example encountered by me of the nest of that bird being chosen as a foster-home, I found the female Tyrant-Bird sitting contentedly on a full clutch of three of her own eggs (one damaged and useless) and one (a large-sized one—and these eggs differ notably in size and colour) of the intruding Cowbird.

In Section No. 1 of Case No. 2 are eggs of the Bay-winged Cowbird (*Molothrus badius*) and the Screaming Cowbird (*Molothrus rufoaxillaris*), these last being perhaps the first collected or brought to this country.

As is fairly well known now, the Screaming Cowbird is parasitical on the Bay-winged Cowbird only, while the last-mentioned, under no circumstances, allows the ordinary

Argentine Cowbird to approach or enter the nest, which is generally an appropriated one—often of previous seasons—of the Firewood-Gatherer (*Anumbius acuticaudatus*) or Common English House-Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*). There were only two pairs of Bay-winged Cowbird and one of Screaming Cowbird occupying the very limited area of small, recently planted trees surrounding the Administration House at "Los Alfalfares," so that it was a very easy matter to keep all the birds under the closest and most accurate observation. Incidentally the two females of the two pairs of Bay-wings laid, respectively, the two contrasting types of eggs described by Mr. Hudson in 'Argentine Ornithology,' vol. i. pp. 92, 97, and although the eggs of the Screaming Cowbird approximate closely to the ordinary or common brown type (especially referred to by Mr. Hudson, as he was unable to distinguish them one from the other) they practically contrast with the rarer bluish-green type. I only personally collected the eggs of the Screaming Cowbird from the two nests taken on the 5th December, 1907—three eggs in the nest of the Bay-wings laying the usual brown type of egg, and one egg in the nest holding the clutch of five eggs of the rare bluish-green type.

These nests of the Bay-wings were nearly 100 yards apart, and it is worthy of note that the parent Screaming Cowbirds, both male and female, were most solicitous while the eggs were being collected and flew closely around me, exhibiting the same anxiety and concern as that displayed by the Bay-wings themselves.

The last clutch of eggs containing two of the Screaming Cowbird was collected after my departure by a relative to whom I had shown the nest, and sent to me by him ; and it is probable that, had a proper search been made, other eggs would have been found in the sixth laying of the other pair of Bay-wings. As will be seen, five sets of eggs were laid in the one season by one pair of Bay-wings and six sets by the other, at intervals of about thirteen days, a proof of the persistency of this species to procreate its kind when previous efforts have been frustrated.

It will be understood that on this occasion I deliberately collected the clutches as laid and completed, always convinced (and hoping) that the Screaming Cowbirds would eventually occupy the nests of the Bay-wings, once the opportune moment or time arrived—in which conviction fortunately I was not disappointed; the eggs, as stated, being first found on the 5th of December, 1907, or at the fifth attempt of the Bay-wings (both pairs) to rear their young. It will also be noted that the eggs of this particular Screaming Cowbird are slightly larger than those laid by either of the females of the Bay-wings concerned, as well as differing in form. Measurements :—

Bay-winged Cowbird, com. variety, average			2·5 × 1·175 cms.
„ „	rare	„	„ 2·5 × 1·16 „
Screaming Cowbird			„ 2·8 × 1·1625 „

List of Fosterers found with Eggs of Argentine Cowbird (Molothrus bonariensis). By J. M. Goodall, Oct./Dec. 1907 and Sept./Dec. 1912.

No. of times.	
3	Short-winged Tyrant-Bird (*Machitornis rixosa*).
3	Yellow-breasted Marsh-Bird (*Pseudoleistes virescens*).
1	Yellow-headed Marsh-Bird (*Agelæus flavus*).
1	White-throated Spine-tail (*Synallaxis albescens*).
25	White-banded Mocking-Bird (*Mimus triurus*).
13	Scissor-tailed Tyrant-Bird (*Milvulus tyrannus*).
12	Chingolo Song-Sparrow (*Zonotrichia pileata*).
4	Red-billed Ground-Finch (*Embernagra platensis*).
3	Lesser Diuca Finch (*Diuca minor*).
1	Scarlet Tyrant-Bird (*Pyrocephalus rubinea*).
1	Yellow-shouldered Song-Sparrow (*Caturniculus peruanus*).
11	Total.

Note. The White-banded Mocking-Bird was very abundant in the Estancia "La Ethel" in 1912.

This bird did not breed in "Los Alfalfares," neither did the Lesser Diuca Finch.

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCLXXIV.

Smithsonian Institution
JAN 29 1923
National Museum

The two-hundred-and-seventieth Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48, Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, December 13th, 1922.

Chairman: W. L. Sclater, M.A.

Members present:—E. C. Stuart Baker; D. A. Bannerman; G. K. Baynes; C. D. Borrer; P. F. Bunyard; Hon. G. L. Charteris; Capt. H. L. Cochrane, R.N.; Denis Cox; R. H. Deane; W. G. Fitzherbert-Brockholes; Gerard Gurney; Rev. J. R. Hale; Rear-Admiral E. C. Hardy; Dr. J. M. Harrison; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain; N. B. Kinnear; Dr. G. C. Low; N. S. Lucas; Rear-Admiral H. Lynes; G. M. Mathews; E. G. B. Meade-Waldo; Mrs. Meinertzhagen; H. Munt; C. Oldham; C. E. Pearson; R. H. Read; W. E. Renaut; C. B. Rickett; B. B. Rivière; D. Seth-Smith; Sir Malcolm C. C. Seton; Major A. G. L. Sladen; J. Stewart; S. F. Stewart; Dr. C. B. Ticehurst; H. M. Wallis; S. L. Whymper; H. F. Witherby.

Guests:—Sir John Campbell, K.C.S.I.; Charles H. Kellaway; E. P. Larkin; Ditton R. L. Lowe; B. W. Tucker; A. S. Vernay; G. M. Vevers.

Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker exhibited, on behalf of Sir Percy Cox, G.C.I.E., and Major R. E. Cheesman, a collection of most interesting eggs taken in Mesopotamia and the Persian Gulf.

Mr. Stuart Baker made the following remarks on this collection :—

"The eggs are in boxes, and are all named and dated etc. on a slip at the bottom of each box, but there are certain eggs to which I would especially draw your attention.

"The extraordinary eggs of *Anhinga rufus rufus* with their bold brown markings will at once attract your notice, as I believe these eggs to be the only known instance of spotted eggs occurring amongst the Darters and Cormorants. Nor are these merely superficial stains, for you will see that they show up well as grey shell-marks on the clutch of three eggs which have been scraped clean of the covering chalky matter always found on the eggs of these and allied birds.

"The eggs were taken from nests in a colony consisting of these and other birds, and *all the eggs* of this species were handsomely spotted like the specimens exhibited.

"In the same box are specimens of the eggs of *Phalacrocorax nigrogularis*, which are the first ever exhibited in England, even if they are not the first actually taken. They are, of course, quite indistinguishable in appearance from those of other Cormorants. Among the Gulls' and Terns' eggs exhibited there are especially beautiful specimens of *Sterna bergii velox*, *S. bengalensis*, *S. repressa*, *S. gelastes*, and *Hydroprogne caspia*—the last, of a type I have never previously seen.

"The Crab-Plovers are interesting, for none are spotted in the slightest degree, though it has recently been asserted that such spotting is common.

"You will see that there is an egg shown of *Phaëton indicus*. In this case a specimen of the beautiful *White-tailed Tropic Bird* was shot over the egg. We know this Tropic Bird breeds on these islands, but the egg is very small and not what we should expect a Tropic Bird's egg to be in colour, texture, or shape. It is possible, therefore, that the bird

shot meant to make a meal of the egg shown, and that it was not her own egg. We shall await further evidence on this subject with very keen interest, and doubtless Sir Percy Cox will leave nothing undone which may help to elucidate it.

"Eggs are shown of *Chettusia leucura* and of *Sarcogrammus i. aigneri*, common birds but very rare eggs in collections. Sand-Grouse are represented by the rare eggs of *Pterocles senegallus* and an exceptionally beautiful clutch of *P. alchata caudacuta*.

"Raptores are represented by *Circus æruginosus*, and there is a fine clutch of *Otus scops brucei*.

"Among the smaller eggs are those of *Hypocolius ampelinus* and others which are but little known.

"In regard to the above eggs, I should note that in each case the parent bird was shot, a fact which greatly enhances the value of this collection. The eggs are most generously being given by the collectors to be divided between the British Museum, the Bombay Natural History Museum, and myself."

Dr. C. B. Ticehurst exhibited the following specimens of young in down :—

Phaëton indicus. Young in partial down, young fully feathered, and adult. (On behalf of Sir Percy Cox and Major Cheesman.)

These were obtained on an islet 3 miles W. of Tanb Is., eastern end of Persian Gulf, on April 5, 1921. The young in down seeems to be unknown, and is evidently well covered with greyish-white down, darker grey on the occiput. The fully feathered young, curiously enough, is precisely like the adult, except that the central tail-feathers are short and tipped with black. It is rare in any *genus* to find the first feather plumage precisely like that of the adult, though it is seen in some of the Petrels etc.

Dromas ardeola. } (On behalf of Sir Percy Cox and
Sterna bengalensis. } Major Cheesman.)

The downy chick of the Crab-Plover is well known ; it is

noteworthy in that it is plain grey above with no dark markings, such as the vast majority of Charadriiform birds show. Has it lost its markings because of its subterranean nesting-habit? or is it the more ancestral type of down plumage? Probably the latter. (See also 'Ibis,' 1916, pp. 317–337.) The chick of the Lesser Crested Tern is perhaps unknown; it is noteworthy in that the ground-colour is nearly white, but has the usual, though reduced in amount, dark markings on the crown, dorsum, thighs, and bend of wing; pure white below. It thus shows the family resemblance to the chicks of other Sterninæ (of which specimens of Common, Little, Gull-billed, Caspian, and Black-bellied Terns were passed round for comparison).

Ibidorhynchus struthersi.
Charadrius mongolus atrifrons.
Esacus recurvirostris.
(On behalf of Mr. H. Whistler.)

The chick of the *Ibidorhynchus* is such a poor specimen that not much can be said about it except that on the back it appears to be buffish-grey with black tips. The bill, as one would expect, is straight. The chick of the Mongolian Sand-Plover is, I believe, known; it will be noticed that it is a typical "Ringed Plover" (Ringed Plover, Little Ringed Plover, and Kentish Plover exhibited for comparison), and shows the usual pattern of this group and the white neck-band; the ground-colour, especially on the wings, is of a warmer buff than in any of the others exhibited; dark markings bolder. The Great Stone-Plover shows its obvious "Stone-Plover" character: the ground-colour above is dirty buffy-grey; line from gape, loral line, line from behind eye down sides of neck black; broken-up black line on dorsum, black line down thighs; neck pale grey, rest of underparts white.

Alæmon alaudipes. (On behalf of Sir Percy Cox and Major Cheesman.)

This small chick is of considerable interest. In many

ways *Alæmon* differs from the rest of the Alaudidæ, and therefore it was of great interest to see what the downy chick was like. The down tracts are the same as in other *genera* of Larks which I have examined (*Alauda*, *Galerida*, *Calandrella*, *Otocorys*), but are more voluminous ; the supra-orbital and occipital tracts are so well marked that they have fused to cover the whole crown, while the humeral, spinal, and femoral cover most of the back—in fact, this species has greatest development of down of any nidicolous species I have examined. The down is creamy-white. The confirmation of the Alaudine character in the downy chick of this species shows the importance of the study of nestlings.

Mr. Witherby gave a short account of a recent ornithological trip to Central Spain, and exhibited examples of some of the birds collected.

Mr. Witherby stated that he and his wife were received with great kindness by the authorities of the Natural History Museum of Madrid, and that they were extremely grateful for much assistance given to them, especially by the Director (Dr. Bolivar) and Sr. Don A. Cabrera, while Sr. Don A. Gil Lletget, the Spanish ornithologist, had very kindly invited them to his estate at the foot of the Gredos Mountains, where a most interesting collection of birds was made. Collections were also made in the Guadarrama Mountains from an alpine station belonging to the Museum, in the neighbourhood of Aranjuez on the Tagus, and around Daimiel in La Mancha.

Among the birds exhibited were Coal-Tits from the Guadarrama which Mr. Witherby considered not separable from the British form *Parus ater britannicus*, a single Crossbill from the forests of *Pinus sylvestris* in the same mountains, which appeared to be like the Mallorcan form *Loxia curvirostra balearica* ; Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers of the form *Dryobates minor buturlini* from Aranjuez ; Bearded Tits *Panurus b. biarmicus* from reed-beds near Daimiel ; and from Mr. Gil's estate near Candeleda, Long-tailed Tits of the South Spanish form *Æ. c. irbii*, Dartford Warblers and Blackbirds like the

North African forms *Sylvia undata toni* and *Turdus merula algirus*, Dippers not distinguishable from *Cinclus c. cinclus* and Azure-winged Magpies. The latter Mr. Witherby had found to be quite distinct from the series in the Tring and British Museums from the neighbourhood of Madrid, Seville, Granada, and Malaga, but like one which had been sent to him some time ago by Mr. W. C. Tait from near Lisbon. These he proposed to distinguish as a new race, as follows :—

"**Cyanopica cyanus gili**, subsp. nov.

"Similar to *C. c. cooki*, but crown glossed with blue rather than purple and rest of upper-parts much greyer and less brown ; under-parts also with greyer and less brown tinge ; in coloration thus resembling *C. c. swinhoei*, but without the long white tips to the central tail-feathers. Measurements :— 3 ♂, wing 134–136 mm. ; tail 180–195 ; bill from nostril 16·5–17. 3 ♀, wing 133–135 ; tail 175 ; bill 15–16.

"*Type* ♂ ; near Candeleda, south-western corner of the Province of Avila, at the southern foot of the Sierra de Gredos, Oct. 29, 1922 ; in my collection.

"Named in honour of Señor Don A. Gil Lletget, the Spanish ornithologist, on whose estate the birds were collected. The type of *C. c. cooki* is in the British Museum and is labelled "Spain," and Bonaparte does not state more precisely the locality in which Captain Cook collected the bird, but the specimen figured by Gould in his 'Birds of Europe' (vol. iii. plate 217) is evidently the same as the type, as both the figure and the type have pale tips to the central tail-feathers, which are rarely present in this bird. In his text to plate 217, Gould states that the specimen figured was lent to him by Captain Cook, who procured it near Madrid. Madrid must therefore be regarded as the restricted typical locality for *C. c. cooki*, and I have examined a number of specimens both in summer and winter plumage from that locality. These are all markedly different from the bird now described."

Mr. David Bannerman exhibited a new race of the Chestnut-headed Stripe-breasted Swallow from the Highlands of Northern Nigeria, which he proposed to name :

Hirundo puella maxima, subsp. nov.

Adult male. Most nearly allied to *H. p. unitatis* Scl. & Praed, but the pure white underparts are more heavily streaked with black, the chestnut head is of a much deeper tone and extends further on to the mantle; the white patches on the tail-feathers are rather less conspicuous. The size is larger throughout, wing 116 mm., against an average measurement of 107 mm. in South African specimens (the type *H. p. unitatis* measures 107 mm.); the bill is also larger.

Type in the British Museum, ♂, Kumbo, 5500 ft., N. Nigerian Highlands, close to Cameroon boundary, 28 Sept., 1921. G. L. Bates coll.

Bill (exposed) 8·5 mm., breadth at base 7 mm., wing 116 mm., tail from base to end of 2nd outer feather 31 mm., tarsus 14 mm.

Observation. The Gold Coast form, *H. puella puella*, differs from the above race in having the striping of the under surface very much finer, the ground-colour of the underparts not so white, and the size considerably smaller (wing under 102 mm.); the N.E. African race *H. p. abyssinica* is also a small bird in comparison, the streaks of the underparts are not so coarse as in *H. p. unitatis*, and the chestnut of the head is light in colour.

Mr. N. B. Kinnear exhibited a dummy Partridge's egg, spotted and streaked all over as though it had passed through the oviduct. He stated that, while a ditch near Hertford was being cleaned this spring, a French Partridge's nest was exposed, and the eggs were taken and set under a hen, nine dummies being substituted in their place. When the eggs were about to hatch they were put back in the nest, and the dummies were all found to be marked as the one exhibited. A microscopical examination of the red markings had been made by Dr. G. C. Low, who pronounced them to be

avian blood passed with the fæces of fleas or other ecto-parasites.

Major Sladen remarked that he had seen the same thing in the eggs of fowls, especially when the birds were kept in a dirty condition ; and the Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain observed that he had seen the eggs of House-Martins and Owls marked in a similar manner.

Mr. N. B. Kinnear, on behalf of Major A. A. Dorrien-Smith, also exhibited a Bartram's Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*), which had been shot at Tresco, Scilly Isles, on 22 September, 1922. Mr. Kinnear stated that there had been about thirteen occurrences of this American Sandpiper in the British Isles, three of which were in Cornwall.

Mr. P. F. Bunyard made some further observations on the breeding of the Blue-headed Wagtail in Kent, to which Mr. Jourdain replied, and after a further discussion, in which other Members of the Club joined, the Chairman stated that he considered the matter might now be considered closed.

Dr. G. C. Low sent a short note on recent occurrences of the Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*) in Great Britain and Ireland. He referred to the announcement by Mr. Wallis at the last Dinner of the Club of the recent occurrence of this species on a sewage-farm near Reading, and also to the fact that Mr. Hale seemed to be a little doubtful of the identity, the latter stating that it had been so rarely observed in England.

As regards old records there was, of course, the classical one by Gilbert White of five specimens of *Himantopus himantopus* having been shot on Frensham Pond in the last week of April 1779. ['The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne,' Bennett's standard edition, revised by J. E. Harting, 1889, Letter xlix. p. 273.]

White, in this letter, remarked : "Our writers record it to have been found only twice in Great Britain."

Harting, in a footnote, suggests that he referred to a pair shot near Dumfries, Scotland, and recorded by Sibbald in 1864 ['Scotia Illustrata,' II. iii. p. 18], and mentioned by Pennant ['Caledonian Zoology,' p. 35, pl. iv.].

Pennant, however, recorded another example himself, shot a few years before 1776, at Stanton-Harcourt Common, near Oxford [Brit. Zool. 4th edition, vol. ii. p. 476 (1776)]. White, apparently, had not read this later edition of 'British Zoology,' as in his letter he states, "Mr. Pennant never met with it in all Great Britain, but observed it in the cabinets of the curious at Paris." This observation applies to the first edition.

White's record, therefore, comes third.

In 1832 another specimen was obtained at Frensham Pond, and by 1889 about thirty other instances had been reported. Of these quite a large number—some seventeen—have come from Norfolk, and most of the southern English counties have contributed their quota.

Dealing with the literature of the Charadriiformes generally, from 1894 onwards, the following references had been collected for *Himantopus himantopus* in Great Britain and Ireland :—

1911.

Ticehurst, N. F. Black-winged Stilt in Sussex [1 seen several times, Oct. 1910, then shot]. Brit. Birds, iv. 1911, p. 252.

1913.

Ford-Lindsay, H. W. Stilts in Kent [2 specimens, Sept. 15 & 20, 1913, both shot]. Brit. Birds, vii. 1913, p. 174.

1915.

Hinchliff, F. B. Black-winged Stilt in Devon [seen only, Nov. 1915, not obtained]. 'Field,' 20. xi. 1915; Note on, in Brit. Birds, ix. 1916, p. 215.

1917.

Williams, W. J. Black-winged Stilt in Ireland [killed on a lighthouse, April 1916]. Brit. Birds, x. 1917, p. 251.

1920.

Mullens, W. H.	Black-winged Stilt in Kent [1 seen only, May 16, 1919, not obtained]. Brit. Birds, xiii. 1920, p. 272.
Portal, M.	Black-winged Stilt in Wigtonshire [seen only, Oct. 17, 1920, not obtained]. Brit. Birds, xiv. 1920, p. 164; Note on Scott. Nat. 1921, p. 27.

1921.

Baxter, E. F., and Rintoul, L. J.	Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*) at Scatfield, Moray Firth, Scotland, 18th May, 1920, and at Ryan, Wigtonshire, Oct. 1920 [Moray Firth, one, seen only, not obtained. Latter occurrence refers to Portal's bird, *vide supra*]. Scott. Nat. 1921, p. 108.

1922.

Joy, N. H.	Shovelers breeding and occurrence of Black-winged Stilts and other unusual birds in Berkshire [birds seen, not obtained—same birds as referred to by Wallis, Bull. B. O. C. xliii. 1922, p. 47]. Brit. Birds, xvi. 1922, p. 54.

This makes eight recent records since 1894, and possibly more have been seen and yet not recorded (*vide* Coward, 'The Birds of the British Isles and their Eggs,' vol. ii. p. 179).

The Editors of the 'Scottish Naturalist' (1921, p. 27), in mentioning Portal's record from Wigtonshire (*vide supra*), state that the Black-winged Stilt has only been found with certainty some eight times in Scotland, and and the 'Hand-list of British Birds,' 1912, and B.O.U. 'List of British Birds,' second edition, 1915, both give six for Ireland. From the above it will be seen that another one has to be added to this latter total.

Though not what might be called a common bird then, it is not such a very rare one. It might best be described as an occasional straggler.

Dr. Ernst Hartert sent the description of a new Shrike, as follows :—

Chlorophoneus nigrifrons conceptus, subsp. nov.

Generally like *C. n. nigrifrons*, but differs as follows :— The grey of the head and upper back slightly paler ; tips of inner primaries and secondaries yellow ; yellow tips to rectrices wider and also present on the middle pair. Male with black frontal and stripe through ear-coverts to sides of neck, as in both sexes of *C. nigrifrons*, but females without these black parts. ♂, wing 100 ; ♀, 93–94 mm.

Hab. Forest ; about 2000 m. high ; west of Lake Tanganyika. Rud. Grauer coll., 1908.

Type in Tring Museum.

I take this opportunity to describe the hitherto unknown adult male of *Chlorophoneus elgeyuensis* van Som., which was described from females (Bull. B. O. C. xl. p. 23, 1919) :— The black forehead is wider and extends over the ear-coverts to the sides of the neck ; the throat and breast are bright scarlet, the lower abdomen yellow ; the rectrices have much narrower yellow tips, and no yellow inner edges. Wings 88–92 mm. The late Noël van Someren, who was killed by a buffalo, sent us five males and two females from Mt. Kenya (above Chuka and Meru).

Dr. Ernst Hartert and Dr. van Someren sent the following description of a new form of Flycatcher :—

Diaphorophyia graueri silvæ, subsp. nov.

Ad. male. Like *D. g. graueri*, but upperside of a different colour, *i. e.* light olive-green with a grey wash on the nape, not greyish bottle-green as in *D. g. graueri* ; quills edged outside with dull yellowish green. Wing 63·5 mm. Bill black. Wattle round eyes " green-yellow."

One specimen, Silwa, Kaimosi, collected by Dr. van Someren's native collector.

Though only one specimen, it seems reasonable to suppose that the slight differences mean that it belongs to a different subspecies. *D. g. graueri* was collected in primæval forest

90 km. west of Lake Albert Edward, 1600 m. above the sea-level. The males of this little group are golden-yellow underneath, the females of *D. g. graueri* reddish chestnut, that of *D. ansorgei* also chestnut, except the abdomen which is yellow.

Dr. V. G. L. van Someren sent the following description of a new *Sigmodus* :—

Sigmodus scopifrons keniensis, subsp. nov.

Distribution of colours as in *S. scopifrons scopifrons* Ptrs. but generally darker throughout, most marked on the crown, throat, and underside. The sooty black of the crown more pronounced, but not sharply defined from the grey of the neck.

Wings 106–109 mm.,as against 98–103 in typical *scopifrons*.

Type. ♀ adult, Meru, N.E. Mt. Kenia, 3/1/21. In Tring Museum, Dr. van Someren Coll.

Habitat. The scrub and thorn bush-country.

Distribution. The country east and north of Kenia to Marsabit, and west to the Karoli Mts., going east to the upper waters of the Juba River.

Observations. 25 specimens of typical *scopifrons* from the Coast regions from the mouth of the Tana south to Vanga were compared with 32 of the inland race.

Mr. J. D. La Touche forwarded descriptions of the following new subspecies of birds from China :—

Corvus coronoides mengtszensis, subsp. nov.

Differs from *C. c. hassi* and *C. c. colonorum* in having the head and neck very glossy and the underparts *black*, the feathers broadly edged with glossy blue-black. The upper parts are mixed purple and green; the upper surface of the innermost secondaries, primaries, and corresponding coverts green ; the secondaries, with corresponding coverts, purple.

♂, wing 329 mm., culmen 59 mm., height of bill 23 mm.
♀, „ 318 „ „ 55 „ „ „ 22 „

Types. ♂, Mengtsz, 27 Jan., 1921.
♀, „ 31 „ „.

Emberiza cia styani, subsp. nov.

Nearest to *Emb. cia jankowskii*, which it resembles in the colour of the mantle. The latter bird, however, has much narrower dark brown shaft-streaks. It differs from *jankowskii* in the tint of the lower back and upper tail-coverts, which are somewhat more rufous. The crown is mostly chestnut with a narrow coronal stripe of dull grey mixed with chestnut. The superciliary stripe, tips of ear-coverts, cheeks, sides of neck, throat, and breast are grey, of a light but much duller shade than in the northern bird. The underparts are slightly darker. This bird differs from *Emb. cia yunnanensis* in being much larger and much paler all over, and from *Emb. cia omissa* in the pale colour of the back and larger size.

Wing 86 mm., tail 81 mm.

Type. ♂ ad., Sungpan, N.W. Szechuen, Nov. 1897.

Named in honour of Mr. F. W. Styan.

Alcippe nipalensis schaefferi, subsp. nov.

Resembles *A. n. hueti* of Fohkien very closely, but the grey of the head is a little darker, of a purer tint, and the sides of the head are also of a purer and more uniform shade of grey. The flanks are slightly more olivaceous. The dark superciliary streak, which is generally very apparent in *A. hueti*, is almost absent in the S.E. Yunnan bird. Two or three of my specimens have the throat strongly washed with ochre. *A. n. davidi* Styan, of West Central China, has paler underparts, a more brownish head, and no superciliary stripe. Soft parts of S.E. Yunnan birds: iris dark crimson, bill black or blackish, legs pale or dark brown.

14 ex. S.E. Yunnan, wing 66–71 mm., average 68 mm.

17 „ Fokhien, „ 65–69 „ „ 66 „

Named in honour of Monsieur Schaeffer, engineer in the "Compagnie des Chemins de Fer de l'Indo-Chine et du Yunnan," to whom I am much indebted for his kind hospitality and assistance.

Type. ♂?, Milati, S.E. Yunnan, mid. Jan., 1921.

The next Meeting of the B. O. C. will be held on Wednesday, the 10th of January, 1923, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, the Dinner at 7 p.m. Members intending to dine are requested to inform the Hon. Secretary, Mr. C. W. Mackworth-Praed, 51 Onslow Gardens, S.W. 7.

[N.B.—Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice *beforehand* to the Editor at Nat. Hist. Museum, South Kensington, and to place in his hands *not later than at the meeting* MSS. for publication in the Bulletin.]

(Signed)

W. L. Sclater, *Chairman.* Percy R. Lowe, *Editor.*

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCLXXV.

Smithsonian Institution
MAR 12 1923

The two-hundred-and-seventy-first Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48, Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, January 10th, 1923.

Chairman: W. L. Sclater, M.A.

Members present:—E. C. Stuart Baker; D. A. Bannerman; G. K. Baynes; Miss M. C. S. Best; S. Boorman; Dr. E. Hartert; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain; N. B. Kinnear; G. C. Lambert; A. E. Learoyd; C. W. Mackworth-Praed (*Hon. Sec. & Treas.*); Lt.-Col. H. A. F. Magrath; Dr. P. H. Manson-Bahr; G. M. Mathews; Mrs. Meinertzhagen; H. Munt; D. W. Musselwhite; T. H. Newman; C. Oldham; W. E. Renaut; C. B. Rickett; Lord Rothschild; Major A. G. L. Sladen; H. M. Wallis; H. F. Witherby.

Guests:—W. A. Jolly; A. W. Mathews; H. Stevens.

Lord Rothschild announced that he had received a letter from Mr. H. M. Wallis, of Reading, suggesting that steps might be taken by the Union and Club to induce the Reading Corporation to convert the Reading Sewage Farm into a Bird Sanctuary. As Mr. Wallis had already pointed out

(Bull. B. O. C. xliii. p. 47), many interesting migrants had recently been observed on this farm. Lord Rothschild therefore suggested that a letter, signed by himself as the President elect of the Union and by Mr. W. L. Sclater as Chairman of the Club, should be addressed to the Mayor of Reading praying that he and the Corporation might see their way to take such steps as would prevent, in future, the shooting of birds of any kind, birds'-nesting, or any avoidable disturbance of the birds within the limits of their Sewage Farm.

These suggestions were unanimously endorsed by the members of the Club present.

We have received a communication from Mr. C. Boden Kloss calling attention to some discrepancies in the account given of the measurements of *Enicurus maculatus robinsoni* (Bull. B. O. C. xliii. p. 19). This subspecies is there said to differ from *E. m. guttatus* in being very much smaller; but the series of comparative measurements given show that it is larger. Again, the subspecies is said to have wings of 103–115 mm., but Robinson and Kloss recorded the wing-measurements of the original series (of which the type-series is only a part) as 100 mm. ('Ibis,' 1919, p. 595). Two errors in spelling are also pointed out, viz.: *Langham* for *Langbian*, and *lacatus* for *bacatus*.

Mr. Boden Kloss also makes the suggestion that, in order to avoid errors in future, new forms when communicated by one member on behalf of another should have the describer's name attached, thus:

Saxicola caprata burmanica Baker, subsp. nov.

This would prevent mistakes such as appear in Zool. Records, 1916, where *C. sumatrana* of Ogilvie-Grant appears as of Robinson and Kloss (No. 692); and in Zool. Records, 1920, where *Anuropsis malaccensis saturatior* of Robinson and Kloss appears as of Baker (No. 34).

Mr. J. D. La Touche writes regretting that in his description of *Emberiza cia styani* (Bull. B. O. C. vol. xliii. p. 81) he compared it with *E. c. jankowskii*, whereas he meant to have written *E. c. godlewskii*. As Mr. La Touche points out, *E. jankowskii* is a Corean form of *E. cioides*.

Mr. David Bannerman made the following remarks on the distribution of the Senegal Swallow, and described a new race from the Gold Coast. He said :—

"Examination of the large series of *Hirundo senegalensis* contained in the British and Tring Museums reveals the fact that the bird hitherto known as *H. senegalensis senegalensis* may be split into two races. The typical species was described by Linnæus from Senegal, and it is obvious that this is a comparatively pale-breasted bird. Besides the type-locality, from which we have a number of specimens, it occurs in Gambia and Portuguese Guinea, probably in French Guinea, in the Northern Territories of the Gold Coast, and in Northern Nigeria. Further east we find this pale-breasted race in Equatorial Africa, in the Sudan, and in Darfur, where Admiral Lynes and Mr. Willoughby Lowe have recently obtained a considerable series. I have examined 35 specimens of the typical form with the light chestnut underparts from the localities mentioned.

"The race which I now propose to separate, and which has hitherto been united with the Senegal bird, is an inhabitant of the moist forest region of the Gold Coast, and will, I believe, be found to be a resident coastal form.

"I propose to name the Gold Coast bird

"**Hirundo senegalensis saturatior**, subsp. nov.

"*Adult male and female.* Distinguished from *H. s. senegalensis* by the very much deeper chestnut of the underparts ; the entire neck, breast, belly, sides of body, flanks, and under tail-coverts being uniform deep chestnut, many shades darker than in Senegal specimens. There is no sign of any white spots on the tail-feathers.

"Type in the British Museum (*ex* Shelley Collection,

No. 796): B.M. reg. no. 95.9.1.1983. 11.ii.'72. Accra, Gold Coast.

"*Range.* Coastal regions of the Gold Coast Colony.

"*Observation.* The Senegal Swallows from other parts of Africa—notably Uganda, Kenya Colony, and S. Abyssinia—are more difficult to name. They are certainly rather darker than typical examples, but are not nearly so dark as *H. s. saturatior*. Dr. van Someren has recently described a race of this Swallow from East Africa which he calls *H. s. hybrida*, but this bird has white spots on the tail-feathers as in *H. s. monteiri* and cannot be confused with the birds which are not so marked.

"We have therefore the following races of *H. senegalensis* :—

1. *H. senegalensis senegalensis*, Linn. Type-locality, Senegal.
2. ,, ,, *saturatior*, Bannerm. ,, ,, Accra, Gold Coast.
3. ,, ,, *monteiri*, Hartl. ,, ,, Angola.
4. ,, ,, *hybrida*, van Som. ,, ,, Tsavo, Kenya Colony."

Mr. N. Kuroda forwards the following descriptions of new subspecies from Japan :—

Garrulus glandarius orii, subsp. nov.

Diagnosis. Resembling *G. glandarius japonicus* of Hondo, but distinguished by the much deeper coloration of the body. The white patches distinctly present on the outer webs of the fourth secondary, although small in amount (22 mm. long), and somewhat washed with bluish instead of pure white, but entirely absent on the fifth, on which in a few cases the patches are present in *G. g. japonicus*; the beautiful cross-bands on the bastard-wing and primary-coverts distinctly darker and wholly destitute of white; the lesser wing-coverts much darker; the ear-coverts very dark vinous, nearly blackish in the anterior parts; sides of neck and back distinctly washed with dusky, especially the lower

hind neck, which is the darkest. The black stripes on the crown of the head broader ; chest distinctly dusky, forming an indistinct large chest-band ; lower white throat somewhat tinged with dark vinous, so that the separation of the white throat and the underparts is less defined. The lower rump, flanks, under wing-coverts, and axillaries darker, approaching grey-vinous in colour instead of pale cinnamon-vinous. (2 specimens examined.)

Type. Adult male, Miyanoura, Yakushima, south of Kiusiu, 15.iv.1922. H. Orii coll. N. Kuroda collection, no. 6020.

Measurements :—Exposed culmen, ♂ 23, ♀ 23·5 mm. ; wing, ♂ 174, ♀ 165 mm. (somewhat imperfect); tail, ♂, 154 mm. ; tarsus, ♂ 41·5, ♀ 37·5 mm.

The single female examined is rather darker than the type male, and the white patches on the outer webs of the secondaries are nearly obsolete, greyish-white notches only being present.

Named in honour of the collector, Mr. H. Orii.

Zosterops palpebrosa yonakuni, subsp. nov.

Diagnosis. Resembling *Z. palpebrosa batanis* McGregor of Batan I., Philippine Islands, and Botel Tobago, near Formosa, but it may be distinguished from the latter form by having a rather distinct black patch under the eye ; the upper parts olive-green instead of light olive-yellow ; the lores and the frontal band tinged with pale yellow instead of with bright yellow, or the frontal band sometimes obsolete ; the auriculars and sides of neck olive-green like the crown without any yellowish tinge ; the chin, throat, and under tail-coverts not so bright yellow, these parts being much paler yellow than the chin and throat; the rectrices blackish edged with olive-green instead of olive-yellow ; the middle of breast and abdomen white, faintly tinged with yellowish ; the flanks washed with vinous-grey ; bill on an average longer and stouter than in *Z. p. loochooensis* ; the flanks darker in colour. (5 specimens examined.)

Type. Adult male, Yonakuni Island, southernmost island of

Yayeyama Islands, S. Riu Kiu Group, 23. ix. 1921. H. Orii coll. N. Kuroda collection, no. 6194.

Measurements :—Exposed culmen, ♂ 11·5, ♀ 10·5–11 mm.; wing, ♂ 58, ♀ 54–55·5 mm.; tail, ♂ 40, ♀ 39–40·5 mm.; tarsus, ♂ 17·5, ♀ 17 mm.

Zosterops palpebrosa iriomotensis, subsp. nov.

Diagnosis. Similar to *Z. palpebrosa loochooensis* Tristram, but the length of the tail on an average shorter, 36·5–39 mm. (only two examples have the tail attaining 40·5 mm.) instead of 39–43·5 mm. as in *Z. p. loochooensis* (only four examples have it 39 mm. and only two females 36·5 and 37·5 mm.). The upper parts are generally patched or sometimes uniformly washed with rusty; two extreme examples (probably a kind of colour variety or dichromatism, no. 6128 ♂ ad. and no. 6209 ♀ ad.) have the upper parts uniform rusty without any olive-green parts and the throat reddish Indian-yellow; the under tail-coverts and a longitudinal line extending on the lower breast to abdomen are of cinnamon-yellow colour; the flanks vinous-grey colour, only the middle of breast being whitish. (12 specimens examined.)

Type. Adult male, Sonai, Iriomote Island, Yayeyama Islands, S. Riu Kiu Group, 17. x. 1921. H. Orii coll. N. Kuroda collection, no. 6198.

Measurements :—Exposed culmen, ♂ 11–12, ♀ 11–12 mm.; wing, ♂ 54·5–58, ♀ 54–54·5 mm.; tail, ♂ 36·5–40·5, ♀ 37–39 mm.; tarsus, ♂ ♀, 16–17·5 mm.

Emberiza cioides neglecta, subsp. nov.

Diagnosis. Resembles *E. cioides ijimæ* Stejn., but the wing shorter and the ear-coverts much more reddish chestnut, instead of chestnut-black or brownish-black like *E. c. ijimæ* or *E. c. ciopsis*. The ear-coverts are similar to those of *E. c. castaneiceps* of Korea in tone of reddish-chestnut colour, but the feathers of the coverts have distinct black bases unlike

the just-mentioned form; the striations on the head more distinct and darker than in *E. c. castaneiceps*. (2 specimens examined.)

Type. Adult male, Miyanoura, Yakushima, south of Kiusiu, 21.iv.1922. H. Orii coll. N. Kuroda collection, no. 6118.

Measurements :—Exposed culmen, ♂ 11, ♀ 10 mm.; wing, ♂ 69·5, ♀ 68·5 mm.; tail, ♂ 67, ♀ 64·5 mm.; tarsus, ♂ 19, ♀ 19 mm.

The single female examined is nearly identical with that of *E. c. ijimæ*, but the ear-coverts are somewhat deeper chestnut than in the latter subspecies.

Parus major uchidæ, subsp. nov.

Diagnosis. Very similar to *P. major kagoshimæ* Taka-Tsukasa, but may be distinguished from the latter by the olive-yellow wash on the mantle being less bright, in some specimens very considerably approaching to that of *P. m. okinawæ* on account of the suppression of the colour; by the white nape-patch, smaller in amount, which is generally wholly concealed or sometimes slightly exposed in the skin; and by the bill being smaller and more slender, but not so thick as in *P. m. kagoshimæ*. The height of bill at nostril 4–4·5 mm., instead of 5–5·5 mm. as in *P. m. kagoshimæ*, and the entire culmen 11–12 mm. instead of 10–10·5 mm. like *P. m. kagoshimæ*. (9 specimens examined.)

Type. Adult male, Komi, Amami-Oshima, Northern Riu Kiu Group, 9.v.1922. H. Orii coll. N. Kuroda collection, no. 6274.

Measurements of the form from Amami-Oshima are as follows :—Exposed culmen, ♂ 8·5–10, ♀ 8·5 mm.; wing, ♂ 64–66·5, ♀ 60·5 mm.; tail, ♂ 54–60·5, ♀ 53·5; tarsus, ♂ 18–18·5, ♀ 17.

The form is intermediate between *P. m. kagoshimæ* and *P. m. okinawæ*, and is no doubt resident on Amami-Oshima and Tukunoshima, where it certainly breeds. Named in honour of Mr. S. Uchida, Secretary of the Ornithological Society of Japan.

Parus major bangsi, subsp. nov.

Diagnosis. Very similar to *P. major nigriloris* of Ishigaki, but the underparts, except the median black patch on the breast stretching to the abdomen, rather whiter than in *P. m. nigriloris*; the concealed white feathers on the nape present in all the specimens before me except in only one male with no white on nape; the white patch on the outermost tail-feathers generally somewhat larger and longer (4–10 mm.) than in *P. m. nigriloris*. Six of the specimens have a small white spot at the ends of the penultimate tail-feathers. (10 specimens examined.)

Type. Adult male, Sonai, Iriomote, Yayeyama Islands, South Riu Kiu Group, 15.x.1921. H. Orii coll. N. Kuroda collection, no. 6304.

Measurements:—Exposed culmen, ♂ and ♀, 9–9·5 mm.; wing, ♂ 63–66, ♀ 61·5–62 mm.; tail, ♂ 54·5–56·5, ♀ 50·5–55 mm.; tarsus, ♂ 17·5–18·5, ♀ 18·5 mm.

The new form is intermediate between *P. m. okinawæ* and *P. m. nigriloris*. It is much nearer to the latter than the former. Named in honour of Mr. O. Bangs, of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A.

Sittiparus varius olivaceus, subsp. nov.

Diagnosis. Very different from any known form of *Sittiparus varius*, though nearest to *S. varius owstoni* in coloration. The form is much smaller in size than *S. v. owstoni*, especially the wing and bill. The underparts uniformly pale cinnamon-buff colour washed with olive on the flanks. The frontal patch rich rusty chestnut like *S. v. owstoni*, but the sides of head and the longitudinal streak on occiput pale cinnamon-buff, the former being slightly darker. The upper mantle with some indistinct rufous feathers, which are obsolete in some examples. The back very distinctly washed with olive, and the edges of wing- and tail-feathers margined with similar colour, and in some specimens (nos. 6352, 6353) with a rusty wash on the olive back.

The head and throat black like other forms. (7 specimens examined.)

Type. Adult male, Sonai, Iriomote, Yayeyama Islands, South Riu Kiu Group, 4.xi.1921. H. Orii coll. N. Kuroda collection, no. 6352.

Measurements:—Exposed culmen, ♂ and ♀, 10–11 mm.; wing, ♂ 70–74, ♀ 65·5–66·5 mm.; tail, ♂ 45–50, ♀ 43–45·5 mm.; tarsus, ♂ 19–19·5, ♀ 18·5.

The female has the wing, tail, and tarsus shorter than in those of the male; otherwise both sexes have similar coloration.

It is a very interesting fact that the form peculiar to Iriomote has no congeners on Ishigaki, whereas *Parus major bangsi* of Iriomote gives place to *P. m. nigriloris* on Ishigaki.

The next Meeting of the B. O. C. will be held on Wednesday, the 14th of February, 1923, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, the Dinner at 7 p.m. Members intending to dine are requested to inform the Hon. Secretary, Mr. C. W. Mackworth-Praed, 51 Onslow Gardens, S.W. 7.

[N.B.—Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice *beforehand* to the Editor at Nat. Hist. Museum, South Kensington, and to place in his hands *not later than at the meeting* MSS. for publication in the Bulletin.]

(Signed)

W. L. Sclater, *Chairman.*

Percy R. Lowe, *Editor.*

C. W. Mackworth-Praed, *Hon. Sec. & Treas.*

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCLXXVI.

Smithsonian Institution
MAR 29 1923

The two-hundred-and-seventy-second Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48, Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, February 14th, 1923.

Chairman: Lord Rothschild.

Members present:—E. C. Stuart Baker; G. K. Baynes; Miss M. G. Best; S. Boorman; P. F. Bunyard; Hon. G. L. Charteris; C. Chubb; Colonel Stephenson R. Clarke; Capt. H. L. Cochrane, R.N.; Sir Percy Cox; A. Ezra; Dr. E. Hartert; N. B. Kinnear; Dr. G. C. Low; Dr. P. R. Lowe (*Editor*); N. S. Lucas; C. W. Mackworth-Praed (*Hon. Sec.*); Dr. P. H. Manson-Bahr; H. Munt; C. Oldham; C. E. Pearson; C. B. Rickett; D. Seth-Smith; Major A. G. L. Sladen; H. Kirke-Swann; Dr. C. B. Ticehurst; H. M. Wallis; H. F. Witherby.

Guests:—Bengt Berg; P. A. Buxton; Lt.-Col. A. E. Hamerton; H. Stevens; B. W. Tucker.

Mr. Bengt Berg, a Swedish writer and ornithologist, exhibited a wonderful series of beautifully executed photographs of the Common Crane, the White-tailed Eagle, the Eagle-Owl, various Waders, and other water-fowl. Worthy

of especial mention and admiration was a group depicting the Common Snipe and Jack-Snipe in the water on the banks of the Nile, the Cranes nesting, the White Wagtail feeding on flies in the Sea-Eagle's nest, a Swan flying, and the "pictures" of the Eagle-Owl on its nest. Probably such photographs have never been equalled in excellence.

Admiral H. Lynes exhibited and described the following new subspecies of birds from Darfur :—

Ploceus (Sitagra) tæniopterus furensis, subsp. nov.

Male in full breeding-plumage differs from *P. t. tæniopterus* in having considerably more black and more chestnut on the face and head. The black face extends about 4 mm. on the average further to the rear, enclosing the eye ; the chestnut similarly extends further down the nape. The whole mantle is bright greenish yellow, instead of yellowish green, and below, the yellow is inclined to greater vividness than in the typical form.

The females and males in non-breeding plumage are like the typical form.

Type in Brit. Mus. Ad. ♂, from Zalingei, 3000 ft., West Central Darfur, 2nd Sept., 1921. Lynes-Lowe expedition.

Dimensions of the type :—Wing 77 mm., tail 50 mm., tarsus 21 mm., bill 16 mm.

8 specimens collected in October at Zalingei in a swamp, where they were nesting :—

4 adult males :	Wings	72–77	mm., tails	45–50	mm.
2 immature males :	„	72, 74	„ „	46–47	„
2 adult males :	„	67, 68	„ „	42	„

Probably a summer visitor.

Lanius excubitor jebelmarræ, subsp. nov.

Identical with *L. e. leucopygos* (a common resident of the "plains"), but with rather purer grey mantle, and the *rump* grey like the mantle, instead of white.

Type in Brit. Mus. Ad. ♂, from highland "downs" of Jebel Marra, 7900 ft., 28 Nov., 1921. Lynes-Lowe expedition.

Dimensions of the type :—Wing 98 mm., tail 106 mm., bill 15 mm.

4 specimens collected in Jebel Marra highlands, where it is common and resident.

The distinction of this form is small in degree, but it is thought worthy of prominence because of its relation to altitude of the bird's habitat.

Mirafra fischeri furensis, subsp. nov.

A rather small, pale red form of *M. fischeri* from Mombasa &c., resembling that species in the irregular "cross-bar" pattern of mantle, rump, and upper tail-coverts, but with the general tone of the whole upperside pale Indian-red, as against the dull brownish-maroon of the typical form.

There are, of course, other rufous races or varieties of *M. fischeri* in Eastern Africa, but they are distinguished by their larger size and, saving in very exceptional cases, by a quite different colour.

In the field, during the breeding-season, *M. furensis* is at once distinguished by its triple "flappet," instead of the long continuous "flappet" of the typical race.

Type in Brit. Mus. Ad. ♂, from Kulme, 3500 ft., West Central Darfur, 6th July, 1921. Lynes-Lowe expedition.

Dimensions of the type :—Wing 79 mm., tail 53 mm., tarsus 24 mm., bill 12 mm.

18 specimens collected in West Central Darfur :—

10 adult males : Wings 76–82 mm., tails 49–53 mm.,
7 adult females : „ 70–78 „ „ 49–52 „
including one shot from nest of 2 eggs, 21st July.
(1 not sexed with certainty).

Probably resident.

Mirafra africana kurræ, subsp. nov.

A small, richly-coloured race of *M. africana*, nearest to

M. occidentalis Hartl. both in colour and size, but differing as follows :—

(*a*) Above. Mantle-feathers with patches of rich Indian-red.

(*b*) Below. Clear cinnamon throughout, a trifle paler on chin and throat, but not approaching white. The breast thickly marked with clean-cut delta-shaped black spots.

(*c*) While there is not a very large series of the Darfur bird to consult, it appears that, although *M. a. kurræ* is somewhat the larger in wing-measurement, *M. occidentalis* has a 10-per-cent. shorter bill, which is considerable.

Type in Brit. Mus. Ad. ♂, from Kurra, 5000 ft., in N.E. Jebel Marra, Darfur, 24th Feb., 1921. Lynes-Lowe expedition.

Dimensions of the type :—Wing 94 mm., tail 70 mm., tarsus 26½ mm., bill 15 mm.

5 specimens collected at Kurra in January and February :—

3 adult males : Wings 98–94 mm., bills 15 mm.
2 adult females : „ 88, 92 „ „ 13, 14 mm.

Probably resident.

Acrocephalus bœticatus minor, subsp. nov.

A small race of *A. bœticatus* (Vieill.), in colour identical with the typical form, if a trifle paler on the back.

Type in Brit. Mus. Ad. ♂, from Zalingei, West Central Darfur, 3000 ft., 2nd Sept., 1921. Lynes-Lowe expedition. Parent of nest with 2 eggs.

Dimensions of the type :—Wing 55 mm., tail 47 mm., tarsus 18 mm., bill 11 mm.

10 specimens collected in West Central Darfur with several nests and eggs :—

8 adult males : Wings 53–56 mm., tails 45–49 mm.
1 adult female : „ 52–54 „ „ 47–48 „
1 fledgeling.

A summer visitor.

The Sudan specimens reservedly assigned to *A. agricola agricola* by Sclater & Praed ('Ibis,' 1918, p. 644) are all identical with our Darfur specimens, except that Hartlaub's single specimen of *A. albotorquatus* differs in having an albino nuchal collar; and since the "original description" of the latter (in J. f. O. 1880, p. 212) does not describe the *race*, the race must be given another name.

A. a. agricola and *A. bæticatus minor* are extremely alike, but the two species may be recognized by the former having a tail averaging equal to or longer than the wing; while in *A. bæticatus* the tail is considerably shorter than the wing.

Admiral H. Lynes also exhibited for the first time the eggs of *Ortyxelus meiffreni* (Vieill.), that is to say, two full clutches (each of 2 eggs) taken on 12th and 18th January in Western Kordofan. The systematic position of this curious bird has recently been investigated by Dr. P. R. Lowe, and we look forward with interest to the publication of his results.

The eggs, it will be observed, are distinctly Turniciform in character.

Admiral Lynes also made the following remarks:—

(1) Amadina fasciata furensis Lynes,
Bull. B. O. C. xli., Oct. 1920, p. 17.

Cancellation.

From further 36 specimens collected in Kordofan and Darfur it is evident that this supposed race is merely *A. fasciata* in its first plumage, and that the name *A. f. furensis* should be cancelled.

By singular mischance the only 7 specimens collected on the first trip in Kordofan and Darfur were all birds only about a year old—that is, a few months before they would have assumed the fully adult plumage by complete moult.

(2) Prionops concinnata ochracea Lynes, Bull. B. O. C. xli., Oct. 1920, p. 18.

Cancellation.

From a further series of 10 specimens collected in Kordofan it appears that the form described as *P. c. ochracea* is not constant.

Typical *P. concinnata* is in general terms a combination of black, white, and grey.

Five Darfur birds collected are more or less true to type, but in 12 from drier, as a rule more red-sandy, Western Kordofan, there is a variable tendency for ochraceous and brown tints to replace white and greys, and (as will be observed in the specimens) this tendency is expressed in high degree in *P. c. ochracea*. On the breast and tail some of the ochraceous tint is certainly due to stain, but about the head and hind neck the browns and ochres are certainly pigmental, and analogous to the heritable sandy pigments of many desert-forms, and evidently also irrespective of sex and age (*vide* family-party of 5 from among the specimens).

Somewhat analogous variations of colour appear to have been found by Mr. Van Someren in other species of *Prionops* in Kenya Colony (*vide* Nov. Zool. xxix. p. 109, April 1922). The point is worth further investigation, but since it is now evident that no aggregate of birds answers to the description of *P. c. ochracea*, the name "*ochracea*" is best cancelled, and all specimens from Kordofan and Darfur referred to the typical form *P. concinnata* Sundev.

Count Nils Gyldenstolpe sent the following description of the adult male of *Cryptospiza shelleyi* Sharpe :—

When Sharpe (Bull. Brit. Ornith. Club, xiii. p. 21, 1902) described his *Cryptospiza shelleyi* the type-specimen was considered to be a male. The type was evidently the only specimen available at the time, and had been collected on Ruwenzori by one of Jackson's or Archer's native collectors. It had, however, been wrongly sexed, and is an undoubted female, which in every respect agrees with females obtained

by the present author on the Birunga Mountains, north of Lake Kiwu. This fact has been ascertained by an actual comparison between the type-specimen and one of my females.

As the adult male differs in several important points, and as no description of the male of *Cryptospiza shelleyi* Sharpe has ever been published, I take this opportunity of describing it. Dr. Hartert informs me that there is a series of adult males in the Tring Museum which perfectly corresponds with my bird.

Description. Adult male, collected on Mount Karissimbi, Birunga Volcanoes, 3400 metres, 25/3/1921.

Forehead and whole upper parts of the body including the crown, nape, scapulars, sides of face, cheeks, and ear-coverts nearest to "ox-blood red" (*Ridgway*), the concealed parts of the feathers olive-grey becoming more pure greyish basally. Upper tail-coverts slightly darker red than the back. Chin, throat, and breast somewhat more yellow than "warbler-green" and more olive-lake on the chin. Sides of upper breast more greenish. Centre of belly, sides of rump, under tail-coverts, and thighs pure black. Remainder of underparts cinnamon-rufous, which colour extends on the flanks some distance above the black of the belly. The cinnamon-rufous feathers separated from the black by some olive-greenish feathers. Wings brownish black. Inner secondaries somewhat tinged with "ox-blood red" on the outer webs towards the tips. Lesser wing-coverts tinged with olive. Remaining wing-coverts brownish black. Under wing-coverts cinnamon-rufous, becoming darker and more brownish towards the bend of the wing. Axillaries olive. Iris dark brown. Bill carmine, becoming pink at base and coral-red at tip. Legs dark brown. Total length 139 mm., wing 64 mm., tail 48 mm., culmen 12·5 mm., tarsus 20 mm.

Mr. J. D. La Touche sent the following notes and descriptions of new subspecies in the *Suthora webbiana* group :—

The Crow-Tits of Central and Eastern China of the *Suthora webbiana* type have hitherto been classified by Hartert and

others under the two subspecies *Suthora webbiana webbiana* Gray and *Suthora webbiana suffusa* Swinhoe. The birds of North China down to Shanghai have been placed under *S. w. webbiana* and the Yangtze and Fohkien birds under *S. w. suffusa* Swinhoe. Some time ago, when showing Dr. Hartert the series from N.E. Chihli (N.E. China), which I had called *S. w. mantschurica* Hartert ('Ibis,' 1920, p. 639), he pointed out to me that the bird was not *S. w. mantschurica*, but a different form. I now propose to separate this bird as

Suthora webbiana rosea, subsp. nov.

Paler than *S. w. webbiana* Gray, from Shanghai, the back greyish brown, the throat and breast of a pale rose-colour. Size larger.

♂. Wing 54–55 mm.; tail 70–73 mm.

♀. „ 52–54 „ „ 56–71 mm.

Types, ♂ ♀, Shanhaihuan, N.E. Chihli, end Jan. 1923.

The West Chihli bird, of which I have a specimen given to me some years ago by Mr. F. W. Styan, and labelled by him *Suthora longicauda*, I would propose to call

Suthora webbiana pekinensis, subsp. nov.

Nearest to *Suthora webbiana webbiana* Gray, of Shanghai, but larger and with brighter abdomen and darker flanks. It differs from *S. w. rosea* by the brown colour of the back and the deeper and more sandy-yellow underparts.

Wing 55 mm.; tail 75 mm.

Type, ♂, Pekin (no date).

While examining these northern Crow-Tits and their southern allies, I have also found reason to modify my former views on the Yangtze and Fohkien birds. More careful comparison has shown me that the Fohkien *Suthora* is not quite the same as the Ichang one, and that the latter spreads down the Yangtze as far as Chinkiang. The Yangtze bird is true *Suthora suffusa* of Swinhoe, who described the bird from specimens taken in the gorges of the Upper Yangtze.

I propose to separate the Fohkien bird as

Suthora webbiana fohkienensis, subsp. nov.

Differs from *S. w. suffusa* Swinhoe in having the head, neck, and upper back of an intense foxy-red, tinged with vinous in winter, and separated sharply in summer from the grey-brown lower back. The back in winter is more rufous.

♂. Wing 52–55 mm. (av., 51 mm.) ; tail 58–70 mm. (av., 63 mm.).

♀. Wing 49–52 mm. (av., 53 mm.) ; tail 55–64 mm. (av., 58 mm.).

Types, ♂, Kuatun, N.W. Fohkien, 6 Dec., 1895.
♀, N.W. Fohkien, May 1907.

The distribution of *Suthora webbiana* in North, Central, and East China would therefore be as follows :—

Suthora webbiana		*pekinensis*,	West Chihli.
,,	,,	*rosea*,	N.E. Chihli.
,,	,,	subsp. ?,	Shensi.
,,	,,	*suffusa*,	Yangtze Valley. (Hupeh Province to Chinkiang, L. Yangtze.)
,,	,,	*webbiana*,	Shanghai and Yangtze delta to Hangchow in Northern Chekiang.

Further north we have *Suthora webbiana mantschurica* Tacz. and in the south-west *Suthora webbiana styani* Rippon and *Suthora webbiana ricketti* Rothschild, both from Western Yunnan.

I do not consider that *Suthora brunnea* Anderson can be classed under *S. webbiana*.

Mr. J. D. La Touche also communicated the following notes on the Tits of the *Parus commixtus* group :—

Dr. Hartert, in his 'Birds of the Palæarctic Fauna,' places the North China Great Tit under *Parus major minor* T. & S. The South China Great Tit is named by him *Parus major commixtus* Swinhoe. In his description of *P. commixtus* he writes that the two birds differ in size, *P. major*

commixtus having a wing of 65–70 mm., and that the green on the back of *P. commixtus* is continued further down, and that the flanks are darker—more washed with dirty cream-colour or brownish grey. All other ornithologists who have written on Far Eastern birds also name the Subtropical and Tropical forms of the Far Eastern Great Tit "*Parus major commixtus* Swinhoe." I have not seen the type or original description of *Parus commixtus* Swinhoe, but Swinhoe, in P. Z. S. 1871, p. 361, writes that it is "like *cæsius*, but with some of the green tint on the back that marks *P. minor*, in fact, intermediate to the two species. Canton to Foochow." This latter description being correct, Hartert's *P. commixtus* is certainly not Swinhoe's.

The bird described by Hartert as *P. commixtus* appears to me to be the Common Tit of Fohkien, a bird of which Swinhoe writes (P. Z. S. 1871, p. 361) as occurring from "Amoy to Peking and westwards to Szechuen" and in P. Z. S. 1863, p. 270, as "found in Japan and from Chefoo (Shantung Promontory) down to Foochow. In the latter paper Swinhoe proceeds to mention the varieties that occur between Canton and Amoy, and from what he writes it is quite evident that he did not mean to describe as *P. commixtus* the bird which is almost identical with the northern bird and commonest at Foochow, and which in 1871 (confounding the Fohkien bird with the N. China one) he declared to occur as far as Peking.

As stated by Hartert, the Common Tit of Fohkien is smaller than the N. China form, *Parus major artatus* Thayer and Bangs—it is also possibly, on an average, duskier above and below.

The wing and tail measurement of *Parus major artatus* Thayer and Bangs, taken from specimens in my collection are as follows :—

N.E. Chihli :	Wing, ♂ 69–73, ♀ 68–71 mm.
	Tail, ♂ 61–69, ♀ 62.
	Nine specimens.
Chinkiang :	Wing, ♂, 68–73.
L. Yangtze :	Tail, ♂, 61–66.
	Three specimens.

Hupeh Prov.: Wing, ♂, 69–73.
Mid. Yangtze: Tail, ♂, 61–65.
Six specimens.

The measurements of twelve examples of *Parus m. commixtus* Hartert in my collection are:

Wing, ♂ 66·5–69, ♀ 61·5–65·5.
Tail, ♂ 58–61, ♀ 50–54.

But, besides this *Parus m. commixtus* Hartert, the Common Tit of Fohkien, there are two other forms much less common at Foochow than the green-backed bird, but still by no means rare. In one of these, which I take to be the real *P. commixtus* of Swinhoe, the back is grey with just a little green on the upper back. The proportions are those of the green-backed bird. In the other form the back is entirely of a rather pale blue-grey without a trace of green. Underparts whitish grey, a little darker on the flanks. Wing as in green-backed bird. All these three forms are resident at Foochow, where the nests of the green-backed and grey-backed birds were taken by Rickett, both the green-backed and the grey-backed birds breeding in the same locality.

Thus there are at Foochow two distinct forms and an intermediate bird, which may be the result of hybridization. These forms have hitherto been mentioned by Swinhoe, Styan, Rickett, and myself as follows:—

(*a*) *Parus minor* T. & S.

Swinhoe, P. Z. S. 1863, p. 270, 1871, p. 361.
Styan, Ibis, 1887, p. 221.
La Touche, Ibis, 1892, p. 418, 1899, p. 401.
Rickett and La Touche, Ibis, 1905, p. 27.

(*b*) *Parus commixtus* Swinhoe.

Swinhoe, P. Z. S. 1871, p. 361 (also P. Z. S. 1863, p. 270, but not named).
Styan, Ibis, 1887, p. 221.

(*c*) *Parus cinereus* Vieill.

Swinhoe, P. Z. S. 1863, p. 270.
Styan, Ibis, 1887, p. 221.

La Touche, Ibis, 1892, p. 418.
Rickett and La Touche, Ibis, 1905, p. 27 (*P. atriceps* Horsf.).

Note.—The real explanation of the presence of these three forms is most probably that we have at Foochow two birds meeting at their southern and norther limits :—

Parus minor T. & S. has become smaller and generally duller in colour.

Parus cinereus Vieillot is here for some climatic reason assuming a green back.

I think that the slightly green-backed and the grey-backed birds are the same and should stand as

Parus cinereus commixtus Swinhoe,

and that the small green-backed form of *Parus minor* J. & S. should be called

Parus major fohkienensis, subsp. nov.

The only alternative is the hybrid theory and suppression of *Parus commixtus* Swinhoe. One fact remains certain, *Parus cinereus* is not a subspecies of *Parus major*.

Mr. J. D. La Touche further described a new subspecies of the Yellow-browed Tit, as follows:—

The West China and Indian Yellow-browed Tits have lately been subdivided into several races, none of which fit the Far Eastern bird. I therefore propose to separate our Fohkien bird, which has hitherto been styled *Sylviparus modestus* Burt., under the name of

Sylviparus modestus ricketti, subsp. nov.

Upper parts somewhat pale olive-green, with a slight tinge of grey. Underparts pale greenish yellow, turning to pale dull greyish green on the throat and to pale green on sides of breast and flanks. The eye-ring is dull whitish yellow, the under wing-coverts pale yellow.

Iris dark brown, bill livid plumbeous tipped darker, legs purplish plumbeous.

Wing, ♂ 58·5–61 mm., ♀ 56 mm.

Tail, ♂ 35–39 mm., ♀ 33 mm.

Type, sex?, Kuatun, N.W. Fohkien, 19 Oct., 1896.

Named in honour of my friend and former co-worker in Fohkien, Mr. C. B. Rickett.

Mr. N. Kuroda sent the following descriptions of new species from Japan :—

Pycnonotus sinensis orii, subsp. nov.

Diagnosis. Very similar to *P. sinensis sinensis* of China, but the wing is on an average shorter (83·5–90·5 mm., instead of over 90 mm.) and the band on chest is darker and more pronounced. It differs from *P. sinensis taivanus* of eastern and southern parts of Formosa in having half-concealed white patch on the nape and in having the white postocular stripe. It also differs from *P. sinensis formosæ* of Western and Northern Formosa in having less white on the nape, and in having the upper and under parts, as well as the under tail-coverts, more striped with olivaceous yellow like typical *P. sinensis* (8 adults and 5 young of the year examined).

Type, ♂ ad. Yonakuni Island, southernmost island of Yayeyama Islands, S. Riukiu group, 28. ix. 1921. H. Orii coll. N. Kuroda collection, no. 6384.

Measurements of eight males. Exposed culmen 13 to 15 mm.; wing 83·5 to 90; tail 74·5 to 84·5; tarsus 21 to 22 mm.

The discovery of the form in Japan (Formosa excepted) is very remarkable. Named in honour of the collector, Mr. H. Orii.

Microscelis amaurotis insignis, subsp. nov.

Diagnosis. Very similar to *M. amaurotis pryeri* of Okinawa, but differs from the latter form in having the wing, on an average, longer (116–129·5 mm. instead of 111·5–125·5 mm.), the coloration of the underparts a trifle darker, and the chestnut band on the chest somewhat more extended. It also differs from *M. amaurotis stejnegeri* of Ishigaki and Iriomote in having the underparts much paler, the breast and abdomen whitish instead of buffy, and in having the chestnut throat rather pale. (3 specimens examined.)

Type, ♂ ad. Nishisato, Miyako Island, S. Riukiu group, 15. xii. 1921. H. Orii coll. N. Kuroda Collection, no. 6425.

Measurements of three males. Exposed culmen 21·5 to 23·5 mm.; wing 129·5; tail 122·5; tarsus 23.

The new form is apparently intermediate between *M. a. pryeri* and *M. a. stejnegeri*, as is also its geographical range. It is equal in size to *M. a. stejnegeri*, having paler underparts, but in coloration it is nearly equal to *M. a. pryeri*, being only a trifle darker. Dr. Hartert considered it probably referable to *M. a. stejnegeri* of Ishigaki without examining a specimen.

Erithacus akahige tanensis, subsp. nov.

Diagnosis. Similar to *E. akahige akahige* of Hondo, but distinguished from it by the breast-band being indistinct and greyish, instead of being well-defined, broad, and blackish. The tips and margins of all the tail-feathers perceptibly darker. The rufous-red on throat somewhat lighter than in *E. a. akahige*. (One specimen only examined.)

Type, ♂ ad. Nishino-omote, Tanegashima, south of Kiu Siu, 22. iii. 1922. H. Orii coll. N. Kuroda Collection, no. 6661.

Measurements. Exposed culmen 12 mm.; entire culmen 16; wing 74; tail 49; tarsus 28.

I have no specimens from Yakushima, where the subspecies seems to me to occur.

Icoturus komadori subrufus, subsp. nov.

Diagnosis. Similar to *I. komadori komadori* of northern parts of Riu Kiu Islands and Tanegashima, but the upper parts from crown to tail as well as wing-coverts throughout paler and lighter, and the outer edges of all the quills including the edges of the primary-coverts and of the first primary, and both webs of the tertiaries orange-rufous instead of brownish like the typical bird, in contrast with the inner webs which are blackish brown. The black frontal band somewhat broader, being 6·5 mm. in width instead of 4–5·5 mm. (One specimen examined.)

I have compared it with a series of autumn examples of the typical form.

Type, ♂ ad. Yonakuni Island, southernmost island of Yayeyama Islands, S. Riu Kiu group, 13. x. 1921. H. Orii coll. N. Kuroda Collection, no. 6672.

Measurements. Exposed culmen 14·5 mm.; entire culmen 18·5 ; wing 78·5 ; tail 50·5 ; tarsus 29.

The two specimens from Ishigaki and one from Iriomote seem to be inseparable from the northern typical bird.

Zanthopygia narcissina shonis, subsp. nov.

Diagnosis. Very similar to *Z. narcissina jakuschima*, but the wing is decidedly shorter. It also differs from *Z. n. owstoni* of Ishigaki in having the throat and rump paler golden-yellow instead of deep golden-yellow to bright chrome-orange or cadmium-orange, and by the wing being a trifle longer (69·5, 70 mm. in two males ; 69 mm. in two females), instead of 67·5–70 mm. (in 10 males) and 63–66 mm. (in 7 females) in *Z. n. owstoni*. The second primary is shorter than or equal to the sixth. The wing-formula is the same as that of *Z. n. owstoni*. (Four specimens examined.)

Type, ♂ ad. Komi, Amami-Oshima, Northern Riu Kiu group, 14. v. 1922. H. Orii coll. N. Kuroda Collection, no. 6498.

Measurements of two males. Exposed culmen 10 mm.; culmen 13·5 to 14 ; wing 69·5 to 70; tail 48 5 to 50·5 ; tarsus 15 to 15·5.

I have examined another female specimen collected by the late Mr. E. Horii at Narikawa, Amami-Oshimi, 22. vi. 1917, and preserved in the Higher Agricultural and Dendrological School in Kagoshima. This specimen measures as follows : Entire culmen 12 mm. ; wing 69 ; tail 44 ; tarsus 15·5. Dr. Hartert gives the length of wing of three males from Amami-Oshima as 72 mm., and one female from Okinawa as 68 mm.

Named in honour of Mr. Kei Sho of Okinawa, a younger brother of Marquis Sho and a member of the Ornithological Society of Japan.

Janthœnas janthina stejnegeri, subsp. nov.

Diagnosis. Very closely allied to *J. janthina janthina* of

Japan proper, but differing from the latter in having the bill less powerful ; wing and tail mostly somewhat shorter, the metallic green on nape duller ; the purple tinge on mantle, rump, and upper tail-coverts also duller and somewhat tinged with violet ; upper breast duller in colour and less green in tinge, but with purplish lustre. (3 adults and one young of the first plumage examined.)

Type, ♂ ad. Yonakuni Island, southernmost island of Yayeyama Islands, S. Riu Kiu Group, 23. ix. 1921. H. Orii coll. N. Kuroda collection, no. 6949.

Measurements of two males. Exposed culmen 21 mm. ; wing 215 to 230 ; tail 154 to 167 ; tarsus 32·5 to 33.

The new form is the southernmost representative of the species, since, so far as I know, it has not been recorded south of Okinawa Island, Central Riu Kiu Group.

Named in honour of Dr. L. Stejneger of the United States National Museum of Washington.

Yungipicus kizuki harterti, subsp. nov.

Diagnosis. Very similar to *Y. kizuki kizuki* of Kiusiu, but the width of upper mandible at the base narrower (6–6·5 mm., instead of 6·5–7 mm.) ; tail on an average longer (46–51·5 mm., instead of 43–47 mm.) ; tarsus on an average shorter ; inner anterior toe shorter (7·5–8 mm. instead of 8–8·5 mm.) ; and inner posterior toe also shorter (4·5–5 mm., instead of 5–5·5 mm.). It also differs from *Y. kizuki amamii* of Amami-oshima, by the shorter culmen (15·5–16·5 mm., instead of 16·5–18 mm.) ; the upper mandible at base narrower (6–6·5 mm., instead of 7·5–8 mm.) ; by the wing being shorter (79–83 mm., instead of 80–86·5 mm.) ; the inner anterior toe shorter (7·5–8 mm., instead of 8–9·5 mm.) ; and by the inner posterior toe also shorter (4·5–5 mm., instead of 5–6 mm.). (7 specimens examined.)

Type, ♂ ad. Miyanoura, Yakushima, one of the largest islands south of Kiusiu, 17. iv. 1922. H. Orii coll. N. Kuroda collection, no. 6782.

Measurements of three males. Entire culmen 15·5 to 16·5 mm. ; width of upper mandible at base 6·5 ; wing 80 to 83 ; tail

46 to 48 ; tarsus 13·5 ; outer anterior toe 9·5 to 10 ; outer posterior toe 11·5 ; inner anterior toe 7·5 ; inner posterior toe 4·5 to 5.

The females are on an average slightly larger than the male.

The form is intermediate between *Y. k. kizuki* and *Y. k. amamii*, and it is rather larger than in the former and rather smaller than in the latter.

It is indeed strange that any subspecies of *Yungipicus kizuki* was not found on Tanegashima until now.

Named in honour of Dr. Hartert in Tring, England.

Yungipicus kizuki orii, subsp. nov.

Diagnosis. Resembles *Y. kizuki nigrescens* of Okinawa, but the black bands on the inner webs of the outer tail-feathers two (excepting the large basal black patch) in number instead of three and the much broader, measuring about 4·5–5·5 mm. instead of 3·5–4 mm. The black bands are always about twice as broad as the white interspaces, measuring about 2·5 mm. in width. The upper mantle somewhat darker, being fairly black. (2 specimens examined.)

Type, ♀ ad. Sonai, Iriomote Island, Yayeyama Islands, S. Riukiu group, 17. x. 1921. H. Orii coll. N. Kuroda Collection, no. 6800.

Measurements of two females. Entire culmen 16·5, 17·5 mm. ; width of upper mandible at base 7, 7 ; wing 78·5 to 79 ; tail 44·5 (imperfect), 46 ; tarsus 13·5 ; outer anterior toe 10·5 ; outer posterior toe 12 to 12·5 : inner anterior toe 8 to 8·5 ; inner posterior toe 5.

It is the southermost form of *Yungipicus kizuki*, so far as known to us.

Named in honour of the collector, Mr. H. Orii.

Mr. P. F. Bunyard exhibited the following remarkable varieties of eggs :—

Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla raii*). A clutch of six from Romney Marsh, May 2nd, 1914, showing true erythrism.

This clutch together with another taken in 1916 from near the same place, and apparently from the same bird, were exhibited by Mr. Reginald Ware (who took the first clutch) at the Second Oological Dinner, September 13th 1916 ('Ibis,' Jan. 1917, p. 125).

Description. Ground-colour reddish white, markings suffused reddish brown, with fine hair-lines of a darker shade. This is probably the first complete erythristic clutch ever taken in the British Isles. A single egg from Freshwater, Isle of Wight, is recorded in 'British Birds,' vol. xii. p. 250, in the late Col. Stonham's collection; there were three eggs in bad condition.

Grasshopper-Warbler (*Locustella nævia*). A clutch of six, exceptionally heavily zoned, from Surrey. A similar egg to these is figured in the British Museum 'Catalogue of Birds' Eggs, vol. iv. pl. viii. fig. 21.

Wood-Warbler (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*). A clutch of six from Surrey, one of which was pure white with a few underlying spots of ash-grey at the large end. Four have large widely separated blotches. The sixth egg has a large superimposed blotch measuring 90 mm.; the remainder of the egg was practically unmarked.

Dr. Percy R. Lowe described an apparently new subspecies of Bird of Paradise, as follows:—

Paradisea apoda luptoni, subsp. nov.

The type-specimen of this apparently new subspecies or hybrid was taken from a box of sixty or more similar skins seized by H.M. Customs at Newhaven on February 25th of the present year. The name is based solely on coloration and is bestowed in order to call attention to what may be an interesting instance of hybridism, the colour of the pectoral plumes being "clocked-egg" colour, that is to say, exactly intermediate between *P. a. raggiana* and *P. a. novæguineæ*.

The colour of the upper parts (mantle, rump, and tail) are practically identical with *P. a. raggiana*.

The type-specimen is identical with a skin in the British-Museum collection said to have been exported from the Meranke district by the Plume Trade.

Type in Brit. Mus. No. 1923.3.1.1.

Named in honour of Mr. A. S. Lupton, of His Majesty's Customs.

The next Meeting of the B. O. C. will be held on Wednesday, the 14th of March, 1923, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, the Dinner at 7 p.m.

Members are reminded that at this Meeting, which will be held conjointly with the Annual Dinner of the B. O. U., they are allowed to bring Lady Guests.

The Meeting will be devoted to an exhibition of Lantern-slides and Photographs, and the Editor especially requests that those who wish to show slides, or photographs, will kindly send him particulars as early as possible, so that their names may be included in the Agenda.

Members intending to dine are requested to inform the Hon Secretary, Mr. C. W. Mackworth-Praed, 51 Onslow Gardens, S.W. 7.

(Signed)

ROTHSCHILD, *Chairman.*

PERCY R. LOWE, *Editor.*

C. W. MACKWORTH-PRAED, *Hon. Sec. & Treas.*

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

Smithsonian Institution
APR 10 1923
National Museum.

No. CCLXXVII.

The two-hundred-and-seventy-third Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48, Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, March 14th, 1923, in conjunction with the Annual Dinner of the British Ornithologists' Union.

Lord Rothschild, the newly-elected President of the B. O. U., took the Chair during the Dinner; and
Mr. W. L. Sclater (Chairman of the Club) during the subsequent proceedings.

Members of the B. O. C. present:—E. C. Stuart Baker; Miss M. G. S. Best; S. Boorman; P. F. Bunyard; Hon. G. L. Charteris; R. W. Chase; C. Chubb; Capt. H. L. Cochrane, R.N.; A. K. Collett; K. J. Acton Davis; Rev. J. R. Hale; Dr. J. E. Harrison; Dr. E. Hartert; Capt. Collingwood Ingram; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain; N. B. Kinnear; G. C. Lambert; Dr. G. C. Low; Dr. P. R. Lowe (*Editor*); N. S. Lucas; Lieut.-Col. H. A. F. Macgrath; Mrs. Reginald McKenna; C. W. Mackworth-Praed (*Hon. Sec.*); Capt. W. E. F. Macmillan; Dr. P. H. Manson-Bahr; G. M. Mathews; E. G. B. Meade-Waldo; H. Munt; C. Oldham; C. E. Pearson; H. L. Popham; F. R. Ratcliff; C. B. Rickett; D. Seth-Smith; Sir Malcolm Seton;

S. F. Stewart; C. G. Talbot-Ponsonby; Mrs. R. Haig Thomas; Miss E. L. Turner; G. de H. Vaizey; H. M. Wallis; H. F. Witherby.

Members of the B. O. U.:—Miss E. V. Baxter; E. Bidwell; Lt.-Col. R. H. Brocklebank; H. Gladstone; W. E. Glegg; Miss Eva Godman; Seton Gordon; C. Hopwood; Surg.-Comm. K. H. Jones, R.N.; N. H. Joy; Brig.-Gen. H. R. Kelham; Capt. J. N. Kennedy, R.G.A.; Mrs. Murton; Miss Vera Munt; E. R. Paton; Major C. W. Smeed; A. Landsborough Thomson; B. W. Tucker; Capt. W. B. J. Webber.

Guests:—A. F. L. Bacon; Mrs. Stuart Baker; E. H. Barlow; E. H. Baxter; Viscount Bury; M. D. Brindley; Sir Iain Colquhoun of Luss; Miss Vera Davis; J. S. Dyson; G. Evans; Capt. G. Fenwick-Owen; F. J. Gardiner; R. C. Hale-White; Mrs. Hartert; Maynard Heath; Mrs. Jones; Miss Doris Kelham; Mrs. Macmillan; N. Middleton; N. Minshead; Hugo Pitman; Miss F. Pitt; Major Harvey Plant; Mrs. L. Popham; D. F. G. Prinzana; E. G. Reeve; Miss J. Topham Richardson; Sir Benjamin Robertson; J. Rudge-Harding; Mrs. Seth-Smith; Lady Seton; M. M. Thomson; F. Weston; Mrs. Witherby; Mrs. P. Whichelo.

The Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain entertained the meeting with an admirable lecture on the habits of certain birds which he found breeding last summer in Spitsbergen, illustrating his remarks with a most instructive series of photographic slides. The chief birds noticed were the Barnacle and Pink-footed Goose, Brunnich's Guillemot, and the Little Auk.

Miss Pitt exhibited a fine series of slides taken in the Shetlands, illustrative of the habits of the Great Skua, Red-throated Diver, Golden Plover, and Merlin.

Miss Best also had a remarkable set of photographs from North Uist, some of her slides depicting the home-life of the Grey-lag Goose and Black-throated Diver being specially worthy of notice. She also exhibited slides of the Curlew and Common Sandpiper taken in Northumberland.

Mr. D. Seth-Smith greatly interested the audience by his slides illustrating the display of various birds in the Zoological Society's Garden—as, for example, that of *Balæniceps*, *Rhinochætus*, *Eurypyga*, and *Polyplectron*.

Lord Rothschild made the following remarks on intermediate specimens between *Paradisea apoda raggiana* Scl. and *Paradisea apoda novæguineæ* D'Alb. & Salv. :—

In the 'Bulletin' of the Club for February of this year Dr. Lowe has described a Bird-of-Paradise as a new form, intermediate between the *P. a. raggiana* and *P. a. novæguineæ* races of *Paradisea apoda*. Such birds have been known for the last forty-five years, having been discovered by Signor D'Albertis in 1877 on the Fly River and described by him and Count Salvadori in 1879. D'Albertis obtained 15 males and 4 females of these intermediate birds, showing all intergradations from yellow-plumed birds like pure *P. a. novæguineæ*, but showing traces of the yellow shoulder-patch and collar of *P. a. raggiana*, to others with the almost pure red plumes of *P. a. raggiana* but with obsolete or no yellow shoulder-patches. Dr. Lowe has described this bird as a subspecies or local race, but I cannot follow him in this. It is, however, rather difficult to fix exactly a term suitable for these birds. In a state of nature where hybrids between two species or two local races occur they are *generally* very scarce, or else isolated cases only. Here, however, we have an example of large numbers, for since the plume-hunters have invaded the Fly River districts many hundreds of these intermediate birds have been sent over. There are three or four parallel cases, viz.: the intermediate forms between

Corvus corone and *C. cornix*, and between *Carduelis caniceps* and *C. carduelis*, those between *Monticola solitarius pandoo* and *M. solitarius philippinensis*, and between *Coracias indica* and *C. affinis*, all of which occur in numbers in the comparatively small areas where the two respective forms meet and apparently interbreed. This is the case with *P. a. raggiana* and *P. a. novæguineæ*, for *P. a. raggiana* inhabits the whole of the eastern half of New Guinea south of the main range of mountains and *P. a. novæguineæ* the the whole area of the western half south of the main range, with the exception of the Berau or Arfak Peninsula ; while it is only in the comparatively narrow area of the Fly River district that these intermediate specimens occur.

We have now to consider what these forms should be called. Salvadori calls them simply "Hybrids," but to me this is hardly a fitting term, as they are so numerous; but they are certainly not a "local race," as they vary indefinitely *inter se*. I think, therefore, the best term would be "Racial Hybrid," as suggested by Dr. Lowe, in opposition to "Hybrid," which latter term I interpret as denoting a casual or individual cross between two species or subspecies.

[Editor's Note.—I was led to suggest the term "Racial Hybrid" by a consideration of the obvious differences which obtain between such sporadic hybrids as those occurring where areas of distribution impinge or overlap—as, say, in *Helminthophila chrysoptera* and *H. pinus* of North America—and the kind of hybridism which apparently occurs in such a genus as *Phasianus* or *Gennæus*. In the former case names have been bestowed (e. g., *H. lawrencii* and *H. leucobronchialis*) on the sporadic hybrids or mongrels which have from time to time cropped up in the Tom-Tiddler's-ground occupied by normal members of the two overlapping species.

In the case of such a genus as *Phasianus*, it seems difficult to believe that some of the subspecies described are anything else than hybrids which have established themselves on the grand scale in areas of occupation which form

more or less intermediate buffer states between the two forms giving rise to the hybrid race.

Such hybrid races, whatever name they may be known by in the future, would seem to belong to a different category than the case of *Helminthophila* quoted above, or than such mixed and mongrel forms as are found occupying the territory intermediate between two such species as *Colaptes auratus* and *C. afer* in America (*cf.* J. A. Allen, Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist. iv. 1892).

As regards *Paradisea apoda luptoni* (*cf.* Bull. B. O. C. xliii. p. 110), it seems evident, as Lord Rothschild says, that the process of hybridization has taken place on a large scale, and, as it seems to me, very likely over a large area, represented by the valleys of the Merauke and Fly Rivers. For instance, I saw sixty exact intermediates in one box at the Customs, this doubtless only representing a fraction of those lately smuggled over, and it was therefore on that account that I was led to suppose that they belonged to the "Racial Hybrid" category.

In the event of this process of hybridization extending on a still larger scale, east and west, and such a supposition does not seem altogether inconceivable if we reflect that the commingling of two races may be supposed to have increased the vigour of the intermediate hybrids, it is interesting to reflect what would be the effect on the status of *P. a. novæguineæ* and *P. a. raggiana* considered as two subspecific entities, for we might eventually get a complete sequence of intergrading forms.]

Lord Rothschild and Dr. Ernst Hartert exhibited and described a new bird from Buru as follows :—

Madanga, gen. nov.

Apparently nearest to *Zosterops*, but wing and tail comparatively much longer; rectrices not square, but pointed. No ring of white short feathers round eye. First primary tiny, outwardly not visible, second (first developed) longer

than sixth or as long as the latter (in *Zosterops*, as a rule, much shorter, though not in the Australian *Z. lateralis* (*cærulescens*, auct.)). Wing even longer than in the much longer *Z. strenua* from Lord Howe's Island. Toes long, claws fairly strong, especially hind claw, middle toe with claw as long as tarsus. Coloration strikingly different from any *Zosterops* or ally. Sexes alike in colour.

Type, *Madanga ruficollis*.

Madanga ruficollis, sp. nov.

♂ ad. Top and sides of head and hind neck ashy grey, rest of upperside yellowish green; quills blackish brown, outer edges like back, inner edges brownish buffy grey. Rectrices blackish with outer greenish edges, central pair almost entirely greenish, outer pair with outer webs greenish, inner webs brownish grey, base blackish. Entire throat cinnamon-rufous, rest of underside dark grey, under tail-coverts yellowish brown; axillaries and under wing-coverts dull yellow, outermost ones at bend of wing brownish green. Bill blackish, base of lower mandible light (in skin). Feet "pale brownish" (*Pratt*). Bill 15·5 mm.; wing 74; tail 57.

♀ like male, but smaller. Bill 15 mm.; wing 70; tail 53.

Type, ♂. Wa Fehat, Buru, 14.iv.1922, 2700 feet, collected by Pratt Bros.

Hab. Mountain Range called Madang, Mada, Fogha, or Gunong Tomahu, 5000 to 2700 feet.

(The female is sexed, we therefore conclude that the larger specimens must be males. Four specimens were obtained, but two were badly shot to pieces.)

Dr. Ernst Hartert exhibited and described a new *Argya* as follows:—

Argya aylmeri loveridgei, subsp. nov.

Nearest *A. aylmeri keniana* from Mt. Kenya (of which only the type-specimen is known to me), but colour darker and more rufous; the dark coloration especially visible on

back, throat, chest, and flanks. Wing 77 to 80 mm. (Wing of type of *A. a. keniana*, ♂, 70 mm.)

Hab. Southern part of Kenya Colony and Kilimanjaro District; Tsavo, Campi-ya-bibi, Taveta, Kitui, Moschi.

Type, ♂. Campi-ya-bibi, 27.vi.1918. V. G. L. van Someren coll.

Dr. van Someren (Nov. Zool. 1922, p. 235) called these birds *A. aylmeri mentalis*, without having seen specimens from Soporo and Mpapua in south-western Tanganyika Territory. Now Mr. Loveridge sent three *A. a. mentalis*, and has thus shown us the right way, and therefore I have named the East-African form after him. Van Someren also says that he had two topotypical *A. a. keniana* which were "rather less rufous on the mantle than on southern specimens," and he "doubted if it was a good race." His statement of the paler coloration of Kenia specimens, however, confirms the distinctness of the form here described. *A. a. mentalis* Rchw. is very much greyer and paler, there being only rufous colour on the crown, and is strikingly different from *A. aylmeri*, *keniana*, and *loveridgei*.

Messrs. Herbert C. Robinson and C. Boden Kloss forwarded the following description of a new race of Minivet from Annam :—

Pericrocotus brevirostris annamensis, subsp. nov.

Pericrocotus brevirostris Robinson & Kloss, Ibis, 1919, p. 452.

Nearest to *P. affinis* (McClelland, P. Z. S. 1839, p. 157), of Assam, N. Burma, and the Shan States, and *P. neglectus* (Hume, 'Stray Feathers,' 1877, p. 171), of Muleyit, Tenasserim; but the females differing in having the forehead dull orange-yellow and the throat yellow tinged with orange. From females of *P. b. styani* Baker, of Sechuan (Bull. B.O.C. xl. 1920, p. 117 *), they differ in their orange-

* Probably a synonym of *P. b. ethologus* Bangs & Phillips, of Hupeh (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. Harvard, lviii. 1914, p. 283).

yellow underparts, yellow-grey cheeks, and dark ear-coverts.

Type. Adult female collected at Dalat, Langbian Plateau, South Annam, 5000 feet, on 8 April, 1918, by C. Boden Kloss.

Total length 182 mm.; wing 83; tail 97.

Sixteen specimens examined from the Langbian Massif.

Mr. J. D. La Touche sent the following description :—

Passer rutilans yunnanensis, subsp. nov.

Like *Passer r. cinnamomeus*, but much darker. Female especially much darker on the underparts.

Wing, ♂ 71, 72 mm.; ♀ 68, 71·5.

Types, ♂. Lotukow, S.E. Yunnan, 12 May, 1921.

♀. Milati, „ „ 10 Feb. 1921.

This Sparrow, which Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker has kindly compared for me at the British Museum, appears to be found as a resident all over S.E. Yunnan, as I have breeding specimens from Lotukow and Yunnan-fu and winter-birds from Mengtz and Milati. I may mention here that *Passer r. intensior* Rothschild, lately described from the Upper Mekong Valley, also breeds at Yunnan-fu.

Mr. Nagamichi Kuroda, F.M.B.O.U., sent the following descriptions of apparently new forms of birds from the Borodino Islands, Riu Kiu group, Japan.

I have recently examined 126 skins which were collected by Mr. H. Orii on Borodino Islands or Daitojima in the Middle Riu Kiu group (about 200 miles east of Okinawa), and the following five forms of birds are apparently undescribed :—

Zosterops palpebrosa daitoensis, subsp. nov.

Near to *Z. palpebrosa batanis* McGregor of Batan I., Philippine Islands, and Botel Tobago, S. Formosa, but it

differs from the latter by having a very distinct black patch in front of and below the eye, the upper parts not so light olive-yellow, the yellow band of middle front replaced by a yellow patch on either side of the forehead, and in having the tarsus on an average a trifle longer. It also differs from *Z. palpebrosa yonakuni* Kuroda (see Bull. B. O. C. xliii. 1923, p. 87), by having the tail on an average longer (41·5–46·5 mm. instead of 39–41·5 mm.), the tarsus also a trifle longer, a distinct yellow patch on both sides of the forehead, the throat brighter yellow, and in having the upper parts, especially the head, paler and more yellowish in tinge. It further differs from *Z. palpebrosa loochooensis* in being larger and in the existence of a yellow patch on either side of the eye.

Type, ♂ ad. Minami - Daitojima, Borodino Islands, 4. x. 1922. H. Orii coll. N. Kuroda collection, no. 7345.

I have examined 7 males and 4 females.

Measurements. Exposed culmen, ♂ ♀, 10·5–11·5 mm.; entire culmen, ♂ ♀, 14·5–15; wing, ♂ ♀, 56·5–61; tail, ♂ ♀, 43–46·5; tarsus, ♂ ♀, 18–19.

Sittiparus varius orii, subsp. nov.

Differs from *S. varius owstoni* in having the general coloration paler, especially the forehead, and the longitudinal stripe on occiput, sides of face, and underparts paler; wing shorter (73·5–79·5 mm. in males and 71–74 mm. in females), tail and tarsus also on an average shorter. It differs from *S. varius amamii* in having a distinct chestnut patch on the upper mantle, in the darker coloration of the forehead and sides of face, and in its size.

Type, ♂ ad. Minami - Daitojima, Borodino Islands, 4. x. 1922. H. Orii coll. N. Kuroda collection, no. 7359.

I have examined 8 males and 4 females from Minami-Daitojima and 2 males from Kita-Daitojima.

Measurements. Exposed culmen, ♂ ♀, 11·5–13·5 mm.; entire culmen, ♂ ♀, 14·5–15; wing, ♂ ♀, 71–79·5; tail, ♂ ♀, 47–56; tarsus, ♂ ♀, 19–20.

Microscelis amaurotis borodinonis, subsp. nov.

This form resembles *M. amaurotis ogawæ*, but it may be distinguished from it by having the olive margins to the feathers of the upper parts broader, especially on the crown, back, and tail-feathers; ear-coverts and lower throat darker chestnut, nearly without reddish tone; underparts generally paler; wing on an average longer (127–134·5 mm. in males, instead of 123–128 mm.); and tail and tarsus also a trifle longer.

Type, ♂ ad. Minami-Daitojima, Borodino Islands, 29. ix. 1922. H. Orii coll. N. Kuroda Collection, no. 7357.

I have examined 7 males and 4 females.

Measurements. Exposed culmen, ♂ ♀, 21–24·5 mm.; entire culmen, ♂ ♀, 27–29; wing, ♂ ♀, 118–134·5; tail, ♂ ♀, 109–126; tarsus, ♂ ♀, 22–24.

Horornis cantans restrictus, subsp. nov.

Somewhat resembles *H. cantans canturians* of China and *H. c. borealis* of Korea, but differs from these two forms in having the bill distinctly longer and more slender; upper parts much darker; side of breast greyer and the throat more washed with greyish. It differs from true *H. cantans* and other forms of *H. cantans* in Japan in having the upper parts, wing, and tail rich rusty olive-brown, the size much larger, and the bill much longer, while the wing and tail equal in length those of other forms of *H. cantans* in Japan.

Type, ♂ ad. Minami-Daitojima, Borodino Islands, 3. x. 1922. H. Orii coll. N. Kuroda Collection, no. 7386.

I have examined 1 male and 1 female.

Measurements. Exposed culmen, ♂ 15, ♀ 13·5 mm.; entire culmen, ♂ 19, ♀ 17; wing, ♂ 65, ♀ 54·5; tail, ♂ 68·5, ♀ 57·5; tarsus, ♂ 24, ♀ 21.

Otus japonicus interpositus, subsp. nov.

Similar to *O. japonicus japonicus*, but differs in having the wing and bill longer and stouter, and the coloration

rather darker. It also differs from *O. japonicus elegans* in having the upper parts paler and less rufous in tone, and in having the wing and culmen perceptibly shorter—wing 156 mm., instead of 160–171 mm. as in *O. j. elegans*.

Type, ♀ ad. Minami - Daitojima, Borodino Islands, 20. x. 1922. H. Orii coll. N. Kuroda Collection, no. 7395.

I have examined 1 adult female and 1 immature male.

Measurements. Exposed culmen, ♀ 13, ♂ juv. 12·5 mm.; entire culmen, ♀ 20·5, ♂ juv. 20; wing, ♀ 156, ♂ juv. 147; tail, ♀ 77, ♂ juv. 69·5; tarsus, ♀ 30, ♂ juv. 28·5.

The next Meeting of the B. O. C. will be held on Wednesday, the 11th of April, 1923, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, the Dinner at 7 p.m. Members intending to dine are requested to inform the Hon Secretary, Mr. C. W. Mackworth-Praed, 51 Onslow Gardens, S.W. 7.

[N.B.—Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice *beforehand* to the Editor at Nat. Hist. Museum, South Kensington, and to place in his hands *not later than at the meeting* MSS. for publication in the Bulletin.]

(Signed)

W. L. Sclater, *Chairman.*

Percy R. Lowe, *Editor.*

C. W. Mackworth-Praed, *Hon. Sec. & Treas.*

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

Smithsonian Institution
MAY 21 1923
National Museum

No. CCLXXVIII.

THE two-hundred-and-seventy-fourth Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48, Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, April 11th, 1923.

Chairman: W. L. SCLATER.

Members present:—E. C. STUART BAKER; D. A. BANNERMAN; P. F. BUNYARD; CLIFFORD BORRER; C. CHUBB; Capt. H. L. COCHRANE, R.N.; Lt.-Col. A. DELMÉ-RADCLIFFE; Lt.-Col. H. DELMÉ-RADCLIFFE; Capt. F. W. DEWHURST; Dr. J. M. HARRISON; Dr. E. HARTERT; Rev. F. C. R. JOURDAIN; Dr. G. C. LOW; Dr. P. R. LOWE (*Editor*); N. J. LUCAS; C. W. MACKWORTH-PRAED (*Hon. Sec.*); Capt. W. E. F. MACMILLAN; Dr. P. H. MANSON-BAHR; R. H. READ; C. B. RICKETT; Lord ROTHSCHILD; G. W. VEVERS; H. M. WALLIS; H. F. WITHERBY; W. H. WORKMAN.

Guest:—J. ANDERSON.

Lord ROTHSCHILD exhibited four examples of casual hybrids and three examples of intergradational series between two subspecies, to illustrate the difference between

what must be called, for want of better terms, "Sporadic and Racial Hybrids."

He said that, whereas these "Sporadic Hybrids" between two well-defined species were very rare in Nature, the "Racial Hybrids" were exceedingly numerous—in fact, they were predominant—in the areas of contact between the "subspecies" or "local races" in question. In the case of some of these "Intergradational Series" the status was quite clear, such as in the Fly River district of New Guinea between the two *Paradisæa apoda* forms and between *Opopsitta* (*Cyclopsitta* auct.) *godmani* and *Opopsitta cervicalis*, for the area inhabited by the intermediate forms is small and well defined, and the series of individuals are the result of climatic influence combined with interbreeding. This is also more or less certainly evident in the cases of the Kingfishers *Alcedo athis athis* and *Alcedo athis bengalensis* and the Rollers *Coracias indica indica* and *Coracias indica affinis*; but rather less so in those of Indian Red- and Yellow-vented Bulbuls and in the red- and yellow-rumped *Rhamphocœlus* in Central America. It is also evident in the North Asiatic examples of the intergradations between *Emberiza citrinella citrinella* and *Emberiza citrinella leucocephala*, and between the Eastern form of *Carduelis carduelis* and *Carduelis carduelis caniceps*. But we are faced with a different problem when we come to the examples of the Crows *Corvus corone corone* and *Corvus corone cornix*, the Thrushes *Turdus naumanni eunomus* and *Turdus naumanni naumanni* and between *Turdus ruficollis atrigularis* and *Turdus ruficollis ruficollis*, the Kaleege Pheasants *Gennœus horsfieldi* and *Gennœus nycthemerus*, and in North America between the "Red" and the "Yellow Flickers" *Colaptes*, &c. Here the area inhabited by the "Intergradational Series" is more extensive, often ill-defined, and in the case of Kaleege Pheasants and that of the Rock-Thrushes *Monticola solitarius pandoo* and *Monticola solitarius philippensis* enjoying varied climatic conditions.

The extremely variable nature of the intermediate specimens and the vast area inhabited by them in comparison

to the areas inhabited by one or other of the respective local races can at present only be explained as due to Environment, and that the climatic conditions within the area are so locally and abruptly altered that the species within that area is still unstable and not fixed. Finally, we have a few cases of "Hybrids," which originated sporadically, but, owing to the offspring, unlike the majority of hybrids between well-defined species, being fertile, have increased in number, as to give the mistaken idea of "Racial Hybrids," such are the many hybrids in Algeria between *Passer domesticus tingitanus* and *Passer hispaniolensis hispaniolensis*.

The only definite conclusion one can come to, in view of these varied examples of the two groups of "Hybrid" forms, is that, in the first place, "Hybrids" of the last-mentioned category do occasionally find a place as a factor in the evolution of new species. In the case of what I have termed "Racial Hybrids," they will, in all probability, eventually in such cases as the *Paradisæa* become a fixed local race; but in the cases such as the Rock-Thrushes and Kaleege Pheasants an intermediate form may become fixed, all other variations, together with the two extreme local races, dying out.

The following is a list of the specimens exhibited, together with the parent species and local races respectively:—

Racial Hybrids.

(1) *Corvus corone* L. × *Corvus corone cornix* L.

1 ♂ ad., *C. c. corone*. Ingelheim, April 1910.

1 ♀ ad., *C. c. cornix*. Tring, Dec. 1893.

Racial Hybrids:—Three ♂ ♂, Rentendorf (Brehm coll.), July 1818, Feb. 1820, March 1845; 1 ♂, Ingelheim, Dec. 1905; 1 ?, Jardine Hall (Sir W. Jardine coll.); 1 Torre de Lago, Italy, Oct. 1906; 1 Gertenbach, Germany, Sept. 1890 (E. Hartert coll.).

(2) *Turdus naumanni naumanni* Temm. × *Turdus naumanni eunomus* Temm.

1 ♂ ad., *T. n. naumanni*. Mouth of Suiffun River, March 1885.

1 ♂ ad., *T. n. eunomus*. Central Ussuri-land, April 1882.

Racial Hybrids:—1 ♂, Idzu-no-kumi, Japan; 1 ♂, Corea; 1 ♀, Sitaipaishan, Oct. 1905.

(3) *Monticola solitarius pandoo* (Sykes) × *Monticola solitarius philippensis* (P. L. S. Müll.).

1 ♂ ad., *M. s. pandoo*. Sikkim (Elwes coll.).

1 ♂ ad., *M. s. philippensis*. Benguet, N. Luzon, Jan. 1894 (Whitehead coll.).

Racial Hybrids:—1 ♂, Tapposha, Formosa, Jan. 1907; 1 ♂, S. Tenasserim, Dec. 1876; 2 ♂ ♂, Hoi How, Hainan, March 1902, Jan. 1903; 1 ♂, Shin-chi-ku, Formosa, April 1896; 1 ♂, Labuan, Borneo, Dec. 1885 (Whitehead coll.); 1 ♂, Haiphong, Tonkin, Feb. 1910.

Sporadic Hybrids.

(1) Swallow, *Hirundo rustica rustica* Linn. × Martin, *Delichon urbica urbica* (Linn.).

1 Hybrid ♀, May 1876. Anklam, Pomerania.

1 ♂, *Hirundo rustica*, Swallow. Sweden, May 1882.

1 ♀, *Delichon urbica*, Martin. Brighton, June 1889.

(2) Greenfinch, *Chloris chloris chloris* (Linn.) × Linnet, *Carduelis cannabina cannabina* (Linn.).

2 Hybrids: 1 ♂, 1 ♀, Nov. 1896 × 1913. Rottingdean, Sussex.

1 ♂, *C. c. chloris*, Greenfinch. Tring, March 1915.

1 ♂, Linnet, *C. c. cannabina*. Rottingdean, May 1899.

(3) Blackcock, *Lyrurus tetrix tetrix* (Linn.) × Capercaillie, *Tetrao urogallus urogallus* (Linn.).

Hybrids: 1 ♂, Wjatka, E. Russia, October. ♀, Nisha-Gorod, Central Russia, October.

1 ♂, *L. t. tetrix*, Blackcock. Göteborg, Sweden, Jan. 1901. 1 ♀, Vester Götland, Sweden, Oct. 1913.

1 ♂, *T. u. urogallus*, Capercaillie. Marburg, Germany, May 1897 (General Hartert coll.); 1 ♀, Kircaldy, Fife, Scotland, Jan. 1919.

(4) Blackcock, *Lyrurus tetrix viridanus* (Lor.) × Willow-Grouse, *Lagopus lagopus major* Lor.

2 Hybrids: 1 ♂, Tobolsk, Siberia, Oct. 1895. 1 ♂, Leadenhall Market, from consignment of frozen Russian game, Jan. 1895.

1 ♂, *L. l. major*, Willow-Grouse. Orenburg, 1887.

Lord Rothschild also exhibited three photographs, taken by Mr. George Forrest, of a morning's bag of Eared Pheasants, *Crossoptilon crossoptilon crossoptilon* (Hodgs.). Lichiang Range, N.W. Yunnan, 1922.

Count Nils Gyldenstolpe sent the following description of a new subspecies of *Poliospiza burtoni*, together with some notes on allied races:—

Poliospiza burtoni somereni, subsp. n.

Diagnosis. Most closely allied to *P. b. kilimensis* Richmond from Kilimanjaro, and then distinguished from *P. b. burtoni* Gray from the Cameroon Mountain, *P. b. albifrons* Sharpe from Kikuyu, and *P. b. monticola* Reichenow from Adamaua, by having practically no white colour on the forehead in the fully adult birds. It is, however, easily distinguished from the Kilimanjaro form by its larger size and by its more brownish upper parts. Culmen also slightly longer and the whole bill more robust.

Type. Adult male, collected on the eastern slopes of Elgon, 6500 ft., 25th May, 1920, by H. Granvik. Type in the Royal Nat. Hist. Museum at Stockholm.

Dimensions of type. Total length 170 mm.; wing 88 mm.; tail 77 mm; culmen, 16 mm; tarsus 21 mm.

Hab. Mount Elgon, Mau, Eldoma, Nandi, and Laikipia.

Remarks. Named in honour of Doctor V. G. L. van Someren, who first drew attention to the possibility of the

occurrence of a distinct race on Mount Elgon. A series of six males and two females from the *terra typica* have been examined, together with some specimens from the other parts of its range. In these birds the males have a wing-measurement ranging between 87–92 mm., and the females 86–87 mm. as against 82–85 mm. in three females from Kilimanjaro.

The oldest name for the members of this group is undoubtedly Gray's *Poliospiza burtoni*, given to birds from the Cameroon Mountain in 1862 (Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. ser. 3, vol. x. p. 443). Therefore, the specific name must stand as *P. burtoni*.

At present the following races may be defined and distinguished as subspecies:—

1. Poliospiza burtoni burtoni Gray. A long-winged form with a very broad and robust bill. Forehead white in adult birds. Wings, ♂ 88–91 mm., ♀ 85–87 mm.

Hab. Mountains of Cameroon (Adamaua ?).

2. Poliospiza burtoni albifrons Sharpe (Ibis, 1891, p. 118 : Kikuyu). Smaller than the former and with a less robust bill. Forehead also white in the adult birds. Wings, ♂ 83–86 mm., ♀ 80–83 mm.

Hab. Highlands of Central Kenya Colony.

3. ? Poliospiza burtoni monticola Reichenow (Orn. Monatsber. 1910, p. 8 : Adamaua).

Said to differ from *P. b. albifrons* by having a broader white frontal band. Wing in type 87 mm.

Hab. Adamaua. (I have not seen any specimens of this form, which possibly may be identical with *P. b. burtoni* Gray).

4. Poliospiza burtoni kilimensis Richmond (Auk, xiv. p. 115 (1897) : Kilimanjaro).

Size similar to that of *P. b. albifrons*, but distinguished by having practically no white on the extreme forehead. Bill as in *P. b. albifrons*. Wings, ♂, 81–85 mm.

Hab. Kilimanjaro and Meru.

5. Poliospiza burtoni somereni Gyldenstolpe.

Characters as given above.

Hab. Kount Elgon, Mau, Eldoma, Nandi, and Laikipia.

6. Poliospiza burtoni tanganjicæ Granvik (ex Reichenow MS.) (Journ. für Ornith. 1923, p. 191 : Lake Tanganyika).

Allied to the Elgon race, but easily distinguished from it, as well as from the Kilimanjaro bird, by its much smaller and weaker bill. Size smaller than the Elgon form. Upper parts darker than in *P. b. somereni*, but not as dark as in *P. b. kilimensis*. Wings, ♂ 80–86 mm., ♀ 80–83 mm.

Hab. Ruwenzori, Birunga Volcanoes and mountains west of Tanganyika.

Count Nils Gyldenstolpe also describes a new subspecies of *Trichophorus* as follows :—

Trichophorus swainsoni bannnermani, subsp. nov.

Diagnosis. Most closely related to Neumann's *Criniger swainsoni* (Orn. Monatsber. 1914, p. 8), and then distinguished from the races of *T. c. calurus* Cassin by having a shorter and considerably weaker bill. Differs from both *T. swainsoni* and *T. c. ndussumensis* Reichenow by having the upper tail-coverts and rectrices rufous instead of olive-green. From the former it further differs by having the upper parts of the body of a more saturated olive-green. Centre of breast and belly bright yellow. Sides of breast and underparts nearest to dark citrine (*Ridgway*). Under tail-coverts ochraceous olive. Rectrices and upper tail-coverts slightly more rufous than in typical *T. c. calurus* Cassin from Cameroon.

Height of bill at nostrils slightly less than one-fourth the length of the culmen.

Dimensions of type :—Total length 195 mm.; wing 91 mm.; tail 82 mm.; culmen 17 mm.; bill from gape 22 mm.; width of bill at nostrils 5 mm.; height of bill at nostrils 4·5 mm.; tarsus 20 mm.

Type. Adult male, collected at Lesse, Sembiliki Valley, Kiwu District, Belgian Congo, 19th May, 1921, by N. Gyldenstolpe. Type in the Royal Nat. Hist. Mus. at Stockholm.

Remarks. In all I collected a series of six specimens of this new race, and all these specimens are very similar to the type. From *T. calurus ndussumensis* Reichenow, which also inhabits the same region, the new form differs by its shorter and weaker bill, and by the differently coloured upper tail-coverts and rectrices.

Dr. Ernst Hartert exhibited a new subspecies of *Prinia gracilis*, which he described as follows :—

Prinia gracilis stevensi, subsp. nov.

Very much darker, more olivaceous than *P. gracilis lepida* of the Indus-valley, Baluchistan, and easternmost Persia. Much more resembling *P. gracilis deltæ* from the Nile-delta, but more olivaceous, not in the least rufescent, and darker than *P. g. palæstinæ*. Wing, ♂ 44, ♀ 43 mm.

Hab. Ganges and Brahmaputra regions.

Type, ♂, North Lakhimpur, Upper Assam, 28. xii. 1905, No. 345. Collected by Mr. H. Stevens, after whom it is named. Mr. Stevens had several more specimens, but he presented a pair to the Tring Museum, calling attention to their dark coloration, which I had already mentioned in 1909.

Dr. Ernst Hartert also made the following remarks on the subspecies of *Argya rubiginosa* :—

The various forms of *Argya* (or, better, *Crateropus*) *rubiginosa* have repeatedly been discussed, but require some further rectification and explanations.

The species was first described as *Crateropus rubiginosus* by Rüppell, Syst. Uebers. p. 47, pl. xix. (1845), from Shoa, and again as *C. rufescens* by Heuglin, from Gondokoro. In the Cat. B. Brit. Mus. vii. p. 391 (1883), Sharpe described two

specimens with dark coloration and rufous lores from Zanzibar and Mombasa as *Argya heuglini*, and, believing that Gondokoro specimens were like the latter, he quoted Heuglin's name as a synonym, because the name *rufescens* was preoccupied, but Gondokoro examples are not separable from true Abyssinian *rubiginosa*.

In Proc. Zool. London, 1895, p. 488, Sharpe stated that he had learnt from Reichenow's Vög. Deutsch O.-Afr. that Heuglin had already renamed his bird *A. rufula*, and, recognizing that his East African dark rufous-lored form was different, he renamed the latter *A. saturata*, because, as he stated, he had renamed the Gondokoro form *heuglini*; this view, however, cannot be taken, because Sharpe gave a clear description of the Mombasa form and erroneously quoted Heuglin's name as a synonym, without having seen it. This was perfectly recognized by Zedlitz (Journ. f. Orn. 1916, p. 103) and by Sclater and Praed ('Ibis,' 1918, p. 692).

Sharpe (Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1895, p. 488), when discussing Dr. Donaldson Smith's birds from Western Somaliland, had only one adult specimen, a male, which was later on ('Ibis,' 1901, p. 662) described as a new species, "*Argya sharpii*," by Ogilvie-Grant and Reid. It is in beautiful fresh plumage and does not differ in any way from typical *rubiginosa*, except by its large size, the wing measuring 96·5 mm. As the specimens collected by Erlanger and Hilgert in the same country, and all others from North Somaliland, do not differ from typical *rubiginosa*, the type of *A. sharpii* is probably only an abnormally large specimen, a giant. Messrs. Sclater and Praed regretted that they could not compare the type of *Argya sharpii* and that it was not to be found in Philadelphia, where the bulk of Dr. Donaldson Smith's first Somali collection is said to be; but Lord Rothschild bought the collection catalogued by Sharpe, *l. c.*, with the exception of the types of the species described by Sharpe and a few others, which are, I think, all in the British Museum. It was from Tring that the type of *A. sharpii* was lent to Mr. Ogilvie-Grant, who was, of course, aware of its whereabouts.

Quite recently V. G. L. van Someren (Nov. Zool. 1922, p. 235) discussed the E. African forms, but came to different and unfortunately wrong conclusions. He said that the dark bird with dark lores from the coastal regions should be called *saturata*, but I have explained why this is not the case; he says that Lord Rothschild and I agreed with this view—he probably put his version before us, and it seemed to us logical, but our united investigation of the literature shows that his view cannot be maintained.

Van Someren also erroneously applied the name *Argya rubiginosa emini* Rchw. to the birds from "South Kenia, Fort Hall, Kitui, Simba, Masongoleni," but we have received for examination from Mr. Arthur Loveridge a male from the Ndugugo River, Tanganyika Territory, which is the only *A. rubiginosa emini* we have seen. It differs from *A. r. rubiginosa* in its slenderer bill, forehead and almost entire crown greyish with quite light tips, more greyish lores, and apparently shorter wings (wing 82 mm.).

If the birds called by van Someren *A. r. emini* were different from those from the "Nile Province of Uganda to Rudolf and Marsabit," the former would require a new name, but I cannot confirm their difference, as there is some individual variation, which, however, is not restricted to the above areas. We would, therefore, have the following subspecies :—

A. RUBIGINOSA RUBIGINOSA. Abyssinia (Shoa, S. Abyssinia) to Upper Nile (Gondokoro), North Somaliland, East Africa to Kenya, Simba, Masongoleni.

A. RUBIGINOSA HEUGLINI. Coastal regions of Kenya Colony to Kilimanjaro District and South Somaliland.

A. RUBIGINOSA EMINI. Tanganyika Territory north to southern Massai steppes.

Mr. J. D. LA TOUCHE forwarded the following description of a new form of Stone-Chat :—

Pratincola torquata yunnanensis, subsp. nov.

Like *P. t. przewalskii*, but smaller.

Wing, ♂ 69–70 mm., ♀ 68–70·5.

Types. ♂, Shuitang, S.E. Yunnan, 1 May, 1921.
♀, Mengtz, „ „ 3 Nov., 1920.
Obs. This is the resident race in S.E. Yunnan.

Mr. P. F. Bunyard exhibited mounted specimens of nest-feathers and down, and also a clutch of ten eggs, of Lesser Scaup Duck (*Nyroca affinis*) from Mirror, Alberta, Canada, collected by Geo. L. Cook on 14th July, 1920, and made the following remarks :—

If confirmatory evidence is necessary, a comparative study of the eggs, feathers, and down of two such closely allied species as the Scaup and Lesser Scaup Ducks would certainly and to a very great extent confirm the validity of the latter species, considered by some Ornithologists as somewhat doubtful. As is also its claim to be considered a British Bird :—

Scaup (*N. marila*).	Lesser Scaup (*N. affinis*).
Feathers : terminal portion white, downy portion pale brown, sometimes pale brown with whitish centrum.	Feathers : terminal portion white, downy portion pale greyish brown.
Measurements 32 mm.	Measurements 30 mm.
Down chocolate-brown.	Down brownish black, considerably smaller than that of *N. marila*.
Eggs, measurements : 35 eggs, 67·9×45·6 mm. (*Rey*).	Eggs, measurements : 10 eggs, 54·05×38·6 mm. (*Bunyard*).
Weights : 35 eggs, 5·795 g. (*Rey*).	Weights : 10 eggs, 4·091 g. (*Bunyard*).
	Measurements (*Chapman*) : 2·25×1·58 in.

It will be seen from the above that the eggs and down of *N. affinis* are smaller, the nest-feathers do not differ much in size ; the eggs, however, are considerably lighter and paler in colour.

Mounted feathers and down of *N. marila* were also exhibited.

The next Meeting of the B. O. C. will be held on Wednesday, the 9th of May, 1923, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, the Dinner at 7 p.m. Members intending to dine are requested to inform the Hon. Secretary, Mr. C. W. Mackworth-Praed, 51 Onslow Gardens, S.W. 7.

[N.B.—Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice *beforehand* to the Editor at Nat. Hist. Museum, South Kensington, and to place in his hands *not later than at the meeting* MSS. for publication in the Bulletin.]

(Signed)

W. L. Sclater, *Chairman.*

Percy R. Lowe, *Editor.*

C. W. Mackworth-Praed, *Hon. Sec. & Treas.*

Smithsonian Institution 1923 National Museum

BULLETIN
OF THE
BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCLXXIX.

THE two-hundred-and-seventy-fifth Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48, Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, May 9th, 1923.

Chairman: W. L. SCLATER.

Members present:—E. C. STUART BAKER; D. A. BANNERMAN; P. F. BUNYARD; A. H. EVANS; Rev. J. R. HALE; Dr. E. HARTERT; N. B. KINNEAR; G. C. LAMBERT; Dr. G. C. LOW; Lt.-Col. H. A. F. MAGRATH; Col. & Mrs. MEINERTZHAGEN; H. MUNT; Miss V. MUNT; C. OLDHAM; C. B. RICKETT; Lord ROTHSCHILD; H. KIRKE SWANN; C. G. TALBOT-PONSONBY; G. M. VEVERS; H. M. WALLIS; H. F. WITHERBY.

Guests:—G. L. BATES; T. R. MORGAN; C. E. MOSS; A. W. SEALEY.

Mr. DAVID BANNERMAN gave a brief account of the expedition undertaken by Messrs. Willoughby Lowe and Hardy to the French Ivory Coast, exhibited a few of the interesting birds which had been secured, and described a new *Camaroptera*. He said:—

"You may care to hear something of the results of the expedition which has recently returned from the French

Ivory Coast, which was undertaken by Mr. Willoughby Lowe and Mr. R. J. Hardy on behalf of the Natural History Museum. Those of you who work on African birds will be aware that the Fauna of the Ivory Coast is virtually unknown, though, as might be expected in this great forest region, the birds do not differ very greatly from those inhabiting the forests of Liberia or the Gold Coast. Mr. Lowe and his companion left England in November last, and, having landed at Grand Bassam, left almost immediately for the interior, travelling by rail to Bouake through a thick forest-belt of 200 miles. From Bouake they travelled west to Béoumi, a place situated more or less in the open, if clumps of trees, dense grass, and impenetrable bush can be so described. In this bush all the most interesting birds lived, and collecting there proved exceedingly difficult. Birds were hardly ever seen except in fleeting glimpses, save a few common species around the bungalow. Yet every day fresh species were secured, and despite a serious accident—Mr. Hardy being almost blinded by a deadly cobra, which spat in his eye through its zinc cage,—a very fair collection was got together.

"Two months were spent collecting in the country, both at Béoumi and Bandama on the river of that name, and a collection of 345 birds' skins, 25 bird skeletons, and nearly 70 mammals was brought home.

"I am now engaged in working out the birds, and have brought one or two of the most interesting forms to show to-night, including a new *Camaroptera*, which I propose to name

"**Camaroptera superciliaris willoughbyi**, subsp. nov.

"*Adult male and female.* Differs from the typical species from Fernando Po in having a duller olive back and the underparts considerably lighter, also a shorter and broader bill. From the race which extends from the Gold Coast to Gaboon (*C. s. rothschildi*) it is easily distinguished by the almost white instead of grey underparts. In this respect it most nearly resembles *C. s. ugandæ*, which, however, is a larger bird with a tail of 37 mm.

"I unite with this race a bird from Sierra Leone (*cf.* 'Ibis,' 1917, p. 76).

"The measurements of the new form are as follows :—Bill 12–13 ; wing, ♂ 47·5–52, ♀ 45 mm. Tail 27–30 ; tarsus 16·5–21 mm. Bill black ; tarsus dull brown ; feet orange ; iris dark brown ; bare skin on the neck bright blue.

"*Type*, ♂ ad. Béoumi, 200 miles north of Grand Bassam, Ivory Coast, 30th November, 1922. W. P. Lowe and R. J. Hardy Colls.

"Named in honour of Mr. Willoughby P. Lowe.

"Coccycolius iris Oustalet.

"This is undoubtedly the gem of the collection. The discovery of the Purple-bellied Emerald Starling in the interior of the Ivory Coast is of great interest. It was described by Oustalet from specimens said to have been obtained on the Loss Islands off French Guinea, but there seems to be very little doubt that the bird never occurred there. It is more likely that the type in the Paris Museum and a poor skin which we received many years ago from the Paris Museum came from Foota Jallon in the interior of French Guinea, but it has never been obtained by any scientific collector until Mr. Lowe and Mr. Hardy shot five specimens at Bandama and Béoumi some 200 miles north of Grand Bassam.

"Macrosphenus kempi.

"I am exhibiting two specimens of this very interesting species obtained by the expedition at Béoumi. One is made up as a normal cabinet skin, while the other has been specially prepared by Mr. Willoughby Lowe to show the manner in which the bird erects the puff-like feathers of the back and rump—a habit which we did not realise this bird possessed. Mr. Lowe says that the skin now closely resembles the live bird.

"In the 'Ibis,' 1921, p. 123, I transferred this species from the genus *Amaurocichla*, where Sharpe had placed it, to the genus *Macrosphenus*. It is certainly much better placed in that genus, but I am now contemplating placing the bird

in a new genus all to itself, as it seems to be utterly unlike any other species. Mr. Lowe made a skeleton of this bird, and has also preserved one in spirit, so that we should be able to determine its generic characters satisfactorily."

Dr. Hartert remarked that the majority of the species enumerated in Oustalet's list of birds from the Loss Islands had never occurred there at all. He himself had been on the islands, and he was quite satisfied that the Starling (*C. iris*) which Mr. Lowe had obtained did not inhabit the islands. There was no primæval forest there, and there was no doubt that the trade-skins of *C. iris* which were in the museums of Tring, Paris, and London had come originally from the interior of French Guinea, as Mr. Bannerman had stated, though it was quite possible they had been *shipped* from the Loss Islands!

Mr. George L. Bates exhibited a fine new Turaco which he had obtained during his last journey through the highlands of Cameroon and Nigeria, which he proposed to place in a new genus and name

Proturacus bannermani, gen. et sp. nov.

Plumage remarkably like that of *Turacus erythrolophus*, but bill and nostrils very different from those of that species and of all other species of *Turacus*—hence the above generic name is proposed.

Generic Characters: Description of bill and nostrils.—Bill larger, or at least higher, than in any species of *Turacus*, much compressed, with a thin sharp culmen. Curve of the culmen from base to tip forming a complete quarter-circle. Colour of culmen not uniform or merely shading off from yellow to red or brown as in all species of *Turacus*, but with the dark red of the upper part, down as far as the level of the nostrils, sharply distinct from the yellow of the lower part. Nostril linear, nearly one-third as long as the bill, with a slight groove continuing its line forward from the front angle. Hinder angle of the nostril covered by the appressed small loral feathers, which are not as long

or abundant as in the species of *Turacus* ; most of the nostril free.

General character of the plumage as in *Turacus*.

Description of plumage.—Head, neck, chest, and breast bright emerald-green shot with gold (Hooker's green, No. 1). Sides of head and chin grey, finely streaked with black on account of the black hairs mixed with the feathers. Tip of crest dark crimson-lake. Mantle and all the wing-coverts except those of the outermost primaries, and the inner remiges (next the bird's back), very bright metallic golden green—brighter than in any species of *Turacus*, though *T. erythrolophus*, and in a less degree some others, have such a golden sheen. All the remiges except the innermost secondaries red, with black outer edges and tips, as in all species of *Turacus*, and *Musophaga* and *Gallirex* also ; but the red in the present species is brighter and more inclining to scarlet than in any other bird of the family which I have examined. The short plumage covering the back and rump dark bluish green with some metallic gloss. Tail purplish blue. Belly slaty black.

Dimensions of type. Wing 169, tail 190, tarsus 40, bill from base (under the feathers) to tip 25 mm.

Soft parts. Iris brown ; feet black ; bill dark red and yellow.

Type, ♀ ad., No. 6920. Coll. by G. L. Bates in the Banso Mts., north of Kumbo, 18 Sept., 1922, in a forested ravine—altitude 6000 ft.

Named after Mr. David Bannerman.

Mr. Bates then exhibited a rare Dove :—

Streptopelia lugens hypopyrrhus Reichw.

Three examples of this Dove, which had not hitherto been brought to England, were shot during the Expedition—two at Jos, N. Nigeria (4400 ft.), and one halfway between Ngaundere and Garua in Adamawa at an altitude of 1500 ft. The type, which is in the Berlin Museum, was obtained by Riggenbach at about the same place in Adamawa.

Mr. David Bannerman exhibited and described new species and subspecies obtained by Mr. Bates on his recent expedition :—

Hirundo rufula kumboensis, subsp. nov.

Most nearly allied to *H. rufula emini* from East Africa, but distinguished from that form by its paler under-surface and rump. There is also more trace of the faint shaft-streaks on the breast and belly than is apparent in specimens of *H. r. emini,* where the shaft-streaks are almost absent.

In size the Nigerian bird is smaller, the wings of four specimens measuring 113–119 mm. *H. r. emini* has a wing-measurement of 124–132 mm., including Shelley's type of *H. astygma* and also one of Emin's birds.

Type. No. 6388. Kumbo, 5500 ft. N. Nigeria. G. L. Bates coll.

Note.—Hitherto ornithologists have usually considered the Swallows *domicella, melanocrissa, emini,* and *rufula* as distinct species, but I am convinced, with Mr. Bates, that they must be united, and I make them, for the first time I believe, subspecies of *H. rufula* Temm. All have exactly the same colour-pattern, and only differ in the intensity of the shaft-streaks on the breast—least pronounced in *H. r. emini*, where the streaks are only just indicated. The question whether we must include the heavily streaked Swallows from the East (*daurica, striolata*, and *nipalensis*) in this same group is now engaging the attention of Mr. Stuart Baker. At present these Indian races are considered to be subspecies of *H. daurica.* Mr. Baker is inclined to think that we shall eventually have to unite all these Swallows under one specific name (as has already been done by Dr. Hartert in his Vög. Pal. Fauna), and that name will be *daurica.* The connecting-link between the African Swallows with faint shaft-streaks and the Indian Swallows with streaked breasts is *H. erythropygia*, and it may be that both groups will best be united. In the meantime, we prefer to keep them separate.

Campothera batesi, sp. nov.

Adult female. In the colouring of the upper parts this new species resembles *C. punctuligera punctuligera*, but the difference on the under surface is very marked. The ground-colour is pale yellowish-ochre, covered from the chin to the under tail-coverts with rather large round black spots, which become heavier on the flanks and under tail-coverts, and which run into bars on some of the feathers of the flanks. The chin and throat are also covered with spots, not speckles as in *C. p. punctuligera*.

The first primary is much longer than in *C. p. punctuligera*.

Bill (circa 25 mm., tip broken), wing 116, tail 75, tarsus 19 mm.

Type, ♀ ad. 35 miles N. of Ngaundere, 2500 ft., N.W. Cameroon, 4th November, 1922. G. L. Bates coll.

Anomalospiza imberbis tibatiensis, subsp. nov.

Adult male. Very similar in colouring to a specimen in the British Museum from the Transvaal (which is named *Anomalospiza rendalli*, but which may prove to be synonymous with *A. imberbis imberbis*).

The bird here described differs from *rendalli* in its much smaller size, particularly in the smaller bill, the under mandible of which is less swollen. The underparts are brighter in the new race than in any other specimens of *Anomalospiza* which I have examined, and the head is more orange.

Bill 10, wing 62, tail 36, tarsus 14 mm.

Type. No. 6978, near Tibati, Cameroon Highlands, 2850 ft., 10th October, 1922. G. L. Bates coll.

Anomalospiza rendalli, with which I have compared this new race, has a wing-measurement of 71 mm.

Note.—With the above race I unite a skin which was obtained by Mr. Robin Kemp at Bo, Sierra Leone, in 1903, and which for lack of material from West Africa we have refrained from naming before. This bird has a wing-measurement of 65 mm. and trifle larger bill than the Tibati bird.

Dr. van Someren in the Nov. Zool. xxix. 1922, p. 147,

unites under the name *imberbis* all the described species. Even if he is right in this amazing conclusion (which I am loath to admit), the West African race here described must be allowed to stand, as it is highly improbable that there can be as great a variation in size as Dr. van Someren assures us takes place in the colour of the plumage of the other races.

The described races are :—

1. *Anomalospiza imberbis imberbis* Cab. Type-loc.: Zanzibar.
2. *Anomalospiza imberbis rendalli* Shell. Type-loc.: Natal.
3. *Anomalospiza imberbis macmillani* Bannerm. Type-loc.: S. Abyssinia.
4. *Anomalospiza imberbis butleri* Scl. & Praed. Type-loc.: Lado Enclave.
5. *Anomalospiza imberbis tibatiensis* Bannerm. Type-loc.: Tibati, Cameroon.

Other rare birds obtained during Mr. Bates's last expedition which were exhibited by Mr. Bannerman were :—

Lecythoplastes preussi Reichw.

A series of this very rare Swallow was obtained 35 miles south of Jos. It was not represented in the British Museum until Mr. A. C. Francis sent a skin from Northern Nigeria a few weeks ago. The type came from Sannaga, near Edea, in Cameroon, and Mr. Chapin also obtained it in the N. Belgian Congo.

Francolinus bicalcaratus ogilvie-granti.

A fine series of this Francolin was secured by Mr. Bates during his last journey, as well as further examples of most of the new forms described by myself from Mr. Bates's first journey to Adamawa.

Bubo shelleyi Sharpe.

This very rare Eagle-Owl is known only from the Gold Coast, and I believe the two specimens in the British Museum, the type and another—both collected by Ussher at Denkera,—were the only adults in existence.

Mr. Bates shot another specimen—a female—on the river Ja, Cameroon, in February 1921, which closely resembles the typical birds, though the back is rather blacker. It is such a rare bird that the great extension of range should be put on record.

The Chairman said that he was sure the members of the Club would join with him in congratulating Mr. Bates on his recent journeys and on the wonderful discoveries he had made.

His remarks were received with acclamation by the members present.

Mr. G. L. Bates then drew the attention of members present to the important work of Steiner on "Diastataxy." Mr. Bates illustrated his remarks with a model of the feathers of a bird's wing which he had prepared, and said :—

"In the last 'Ibis,' in a notice supplied by Dr. Gadow of an important paper on the development of the bones of the bird's wing, the author of the paper is thus referred to : 'Dr. H. Steiner of Zurich, who has already to his credit the satisfactory solution of "Diastataxy"—*anglice*, the missing fifth cubital quill.' Being a little interested in this latter subject, I found, by the help of the 'Zoological Record,' the paper in which Steiner gives an outline of his studies. It is in the 'Vierteljahrsschrift,' Naturforsch. Gesellschaft, Zürich, lxi. p. 488 (1916). (There the author says that a fuller account was to appear in another publication.)

"From this paper in the Zurich publication one may get a clearer idea of the significance and probable cause of diastataxy than anywhere else, I suppose.

"As we all know, in birds whose wing is diastataxic there is a little space or gap between the 4th and the 5th quills on the arm part of the wing, counting from the wrist-joint ; and that space has opposite it a covert, both above and below, for which there is no remex.

"Another point not so well known, but necessary to bear in mind, Steiner says, is that the first five upper coverts on

the arm, including the one opposite the gap, are a little longer than the following ones and are inserted a little lower down ; while the first five corresponding under coverts are a little smaller than the following ones and inserted a little higher up. Whether or not all diastataxic wings show this condition or not, it is enough at present that some certainly do.

"This state of things may be explained by supposing that there was, very early in the development of the wing, a displacement of these feathers next the wrist in every row, so that they were moved up a notch, as it were, into the next row, as if by a twisting of the skin in which they were inserted. Such a twisting, displacing five feathers from the row forming the hinder edge of the wing, so that they stood in the next row above and had their place supplied by four from the next row below, would, when this edge-row became developed into the large remiges and the adjacent rows took the subordinate station of coverts, bring exactly the arrangement called *diastataxy*.

"The supposed twisting of the skin might be brought about by the tension due to the new kind of horizontal flexion of the wrist-joint when the forward extremity began to be used as a wing.

"The explanation of diastataxy formerly put forward by Pycraft likewise supposed a displacement of the feathers in the rows, but in a different direction, and failed to account for the slight difference in size and in position observable in the five feathers of each row of coverts nearest the carpal joint. But this fact as well as the fact of the gap in the remiges and the extra coverts opposite to it are all neatly explained by the twisting or displacement in the manner in which Steiner imagines it ; and a reasonable cause for the twisting, in the tension of the skin as explained, is supplied also.

"This diastataxic condition is the primitive one. Steiner saw evidences of it in the wing of *Archæopteryx*. It was established before the Avian tree had any branches. Eutaxy is the later condition, and may be looked upon as a process

of simplifying the arrangement of the wing, or of getting rid of the gap which might cause the wing to be less efficient.

"Diastataxic wings are retained by birds that sail or glide. Eutaxy has been attained by birds that depend on wing-beats to lift the body, and have need of the most closely-knit wing possible."

Colonel R. Meinertzhagen exhibited and described three new Palæarctic forms, as follows :—

Œnanthe mœsta brooksbanki, subsp. nov.

Adult male similar to *Œnanthe m. mœsta*, but more mealy and with apparently not so much rufous in the plumage. Also larger, especially in the bill.

Adult female less rufous than in the typical race.

Wing of 5 males, 93–97 mm. ; culmen, 19–19·5 mm.

Wing of 2 females, 92–93 mm. ; culmen, 18·5, 19·5 mm.

Type. In the Tring Museum. Adult male, near El Jid, long. 40° E., lat. 33° N., Northern Arabian Desert, 30. x. 1922.

Obs. This large race appears to inhabit the Syrian and North Arabian Deserts.

Ammomanes deserti annæ, subsp. nov.

Near *Ammomanes deserti saturatus* from Southern Arabia, but even darker below, the sooty colour on the breast and flanks appearing to be more intense and of greater extent. Base of bill usually deeper.

Wing of 6 males, 101–107 mm. ; culmen, 14·5–16·5 mm.

Wing of 4 females, 98–101 mm. ; culmen, 14·5–16 mm.

Type. In the Tring Museum. Adult female, 30 miles east of Azraq (60 miles east of Amman, on the Hejaz Railway, in Transjordania), shot on 27. x. 1922.

Obs. This dark race extends in North Arabia from about 20 miles west of Azraq to the lava-hills 90 miles east of that place.

Prinia gracilis irakensis, subsp. nov.

Considerably darker and with broader centres to the feathers than in *Prinia g. lepida*. Tail as in *lepida*, but

darker. Very close to *Prinia g. palæstinæ*, but the subterminal black and white bar on the tail is much less distinct than in that race.

Wing of 5 males and females, 39–44 mm.

Type. In the Tring Museum. Adult female, Baghdad, 9. i. 1923.

Obs. This race appears to extend in Mesopotamia from Kirkuk in Southern Kurdestan to Baghdad, and thence south down the Tigris and Euphrates to Fao on the Persian Gulf. Specimens from the coast of Southern Persia appear intermediate between this race and *P. g. lepida*. Birds from Quetta are typical *Prinia g. lepida*, but there is in the British Museum a bird from Kohat which closely resembles *P. g. irakensis* in colour.

Mr. H. Kirke Swann exhibited and made remarks upon the following skins of American Hawks :—

Urubitinga gundlachi (Cab.). From Cuba. Exhibited for the first time in England. Dr. Sharpe thought it might be the young of *U. anthracina*, and, indeed, considered it as a synonym of that species ; yet it is an entirely different bird, having a brown plumage when adult.

Chondrohierax wilsoni (Cass.). Also from Cuba. It will be seen that this rare species is very different from the other two species of the genus, although it has the bill of *C. megarhynchus*, which is really little more than a large-billed form of *C. uncinatus*.

Falco columbarius bendirei Swann. From California. This form was described by me in Bull. B. O. U. xlii. p. 66 (1922). It differs very materially from the other three North American Merlins. It is the form inhabiting the Pacific coast from California to Washington State and from thence north-eastwards to Alberta, the coast from British Columbia northward being occupied by *Falco c. suckleyi*, which has the upper parts and tail black.

Cerchneis sparverius guatemalensis Swann. From Guatemala (type). The "Sparrow-Hawk" of Central

America is remarkable for differing widely from the North American forms, while it much resembles the form found in Argentina and Patagonia (*C. cinnamominus cinnamominus*).

Buteo solitarius Peale. From Hawaii. Although not an American Hawk, this species is so little known that the skin shown is of interest, especially as it closely resembles the type in the Philadelphia Academy Museum.

Dr. E. Hartert communicated the following descriptions of new subspecies:—

Alauda arvensis herberti, subsp. nov.

This is the Skylark breeding round Bangkok in Siam. It looks very much like *A. a. wattersi*, and belongs, like the latter, to the group of subspecies formerly regarded as another species, *A. gulgula*, but differs from *A. a. wattersi* of South and Middle Formosa in being larger and having finer striations on the chest. Wings, 4 ♂, 88–91; ♀, 85·5 mm.

Hab. Near Bangkok (*Williamson*).

Type, in the Tring Museum. ♂ ad. Bangkok, 31. iii. 1915. W. J. F. Williamson coll. Named after E. G. Herbert, to whom we owe interesting material from Siam. This is the bird called *A. gulgula sala* in Gyldenstolpe's list of the birds of Siam, but *A. a. sala* is larger, heavier streaked on the chest, has heavier bill, and inhabits North Formosa, not Siam.

Eremomela flaviventris tardinata, subsp. nov.

♀ ad. Upperside olive-brownish, on lores and sides of crown a whitish-grey superciliary line, a dark olive-brownish one on lores and behind the eye; lower portion of sides of head, throat, crop, breast dirty white, creamy tinge on chest; lower abdomen, vent, and sides of vent lemon-yellow, thighs whitish, under tail-coverts very pale yellow. Under wing-coverts and axillaries brownish, almost like back. Edges of primaries and inner secondaries, inner edges and tips of rectrices whitish. Wing 52·5, tail 23 mm. (Bill in skin blackish.)

♀ is described, but ♂ ad. is the "Type"!

Hab. Sagayo, Mwanza, Tanganyika Territory.

Type, in the Tring Museum. ♂ ad. Sagayo, 2. xi. 1922, no. R. 8050. Coll. by A. Loveridge, Esq.

Obs. The nest and eggs were also obtained.

Mr. J. D. La Touche sent the following description of a new form of *Eophona* as follows :—

The Yunnan form of *Eophona migratoria* (*melanura*, olim), the Black-tailed Hawfinch, differs from the Lower Yangtze bird, *E. m. pulla* Penard, in having a smaller bill and darker upper parts, the mantle being of a dark grey-brown, not a yellow-brown. The bill in two examples out of the five collected is very short, being smaller even than in males of *E. m. migratoria*. From the latter form it differs in being darker and in its larger size. (*Cf.* Hartert, Vög. Pal. Faun. pt. iii. p. 2046.)

I would propose to name this bird

Eophona migratoria harterti, subsp. nov.,

in honour of Dr. Hartert.

Types. ♂, Milati, S.E. Yunnan, 9th Jan., 1921.
„ ♀, „ „ 10th Feb., 1921.

		Bill.		Wing.
		Length.	Height.	
		mm.	mm.	mm.
E. m. pulla (Chinkiang)	2 ♂	20–21	16·5	106
	4 ♀	21	16·5–17	103–108·5
E. m. harterti (S.E. Yunnan)	4 ♂	18–21	14·5–15	103–105
	1 ♀	18·5	14	100
E. m. migratoria (Chihli, Shaweishan, Fohkien) ..	11 ♂	19·5–21	14·5–15·5	97–105
	5 ♀	18–20	14–15	98–101

On behalf of Dr. Percy Lowe, Mr. Bannerman said that the wing of a Garganey (*Querquedula querquedula*) had recently been sent to the "Bird Room" by Dr. Hopkinson, who had shot the duck in the Gambia. Records of the Garganey from the West Africa coast are unknown, but Dr. Hartert has seen great numbers on the flat lakes

in Northern Nigeria, and mentions a specimen from Zaria, Northern Nigeria. It would appear to migrate down the Nile valley and to reach Uganda and Tanganyika Territory, but it is evidently very unusual for the Garganey to appear on the West Coast.

The next Meeting of the B. O. C. will be held on Wednesday, the 13th of June, 1923, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, the Dinner at 7 p.m. Members intending to dine are requested to inform the Hon. Secretary, Mr. C. W. Mackworth-Praed, 51 Onslow Gardens, S.W. 7.

[N.B.—Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice *beforehand* to the Editor at Nat. Hist. Museum, South Kensington, and to place in his hands *not later than at the meeting* MSS. for publication in the Bulletin.]

(Signed)

W. L. Sclater, *Chairman.*

Percy R. Lowe, *Editor.*

C. W. Mackworth-Praed, *Hon. Sec. & Treas.*

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BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCLXXX.

The two-hundred-and-seventy-sixth Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48, Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, June 13th, 1923.

Chairman: W. L. Sclater.

Members present:—E. E. Adams; E. C. Stuart Baker; D. A. Bannerman; A. D. Bradford; P. F. Bunyard; Capt. R. C. Cheesman; A. Ezra; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain; N. B. Kinnear; G. C. Lambert; Dr. G. C. Low; Dr. P. H. Manson-Bahr; G. M. Mathews; E. G. B. Meade-Waldo; Col. & Mrs. Meinertzhagen; H. Munt; C. Oldham; R. H. Read; C. B. Rickett; Lord Rothschild; D. Seth-Smith; H. Kirke Swann; G. M. Vevers; H. F. Witherby.

Guests:—Capt. G. Corlett; E. Huntley; Miss Munt.

Dr. van Someren forwarded the following description of a new race of Yellow-vented Bulbul, which he proposed to name

Pycnonotus dodsoni littoralis, subsp. nov.

In type of plumage somewhat similar to *P. d. dodsoni*, but considerably larger and less mottled on the breast; in these respects differing also from *P. d. teitensis*, mihi.

There is a distinct white patch behind the ear-coverts, the rectrices are tipped with white, and the crown, sides of the head, including the ear-coverts, are black.

Wings: males 85–90 mm., majority 87; females 80–83, majority 82.

Type. Male in Dr. van Someren's Coll. Changamwe, N. of Mombasa, 19/11/18. Wings 87 mm.

Obs. I have a large series of topotypical *P. micrus* Oberh., which this bird is not. Further, it was submitted to this authority, who declared it distinct. I indicated its distinctness in my paper, Nov. Zool. xxix., April 1922.

A series of 42 skins was collected.

Range. The coastal belt from the Kilifi River, Malindi, south to Shimoni. Inland along the railway-line to Samburu.

Dr. VAN SOMEREN also sends the following description of a new species of *Linurgus* from Kenya :—

Linurgus keniensis, sp. nov.

Adult male nearest to *L. elgonensis* (mihi), but darker above; mantle, rump, and tail more olive, not so yellow. Underside not so pure yellow. There is no yellow collar separating the black of the nape from the olive of the mantle, as there is in *L. elgonensis.*

Adult female differs from female of *L. elgonensis* in a similar way, *i. e.* it is generally darker.

There is little difference in wing-measurements: *L. elgonensis* 70–73, *L. keniensis* 74–77 mm.

Type. Male adult in Dr. van Someren's Coll. Meru Forest, N. Kenia, 27/12/20.

Distribution. Apparently limited to Mt. Kenia.

Obs. This bird stands intermediate between *L. elgonensis*, of which I have nine skins, and *L. kilimensis*, of which I possess six.

Except for the fact that the species of *Linurgus* are so widely separated and have such restricted ranges, one might suggest that they were merely geographical races of *L. olivaceus* (Fras.).

Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker described two new races of Flycatcher, and made the following remarks:—

Hemichelidon sibirica Gmelin has hitherto been divided into two races:

(1) Hemichelidon sibirica sibirica Gmelin, S. N. i. p. 936 (1788: Lake Baikal).

This is a very grey bird, with more and purer white below than in any other form. Wing 75–83 mm.

Habitat. East Siberia, from Kamschatka to Lake Baikal and Manchuria; in winter south to South China, but apparently not to the Indo-Chinese countries, Borneo, etc.

(2) Hemichelidon sibirica caccabata Penard, Proc. N.E. Zool. Club, vii. p. 21 (1919: Nepal).

This is the *H. fuliginosa* of Hodgson—a name which cannot be used, as Penard has shown it to be preoccupied twice over.

It is a much darker bird, more brown and less grey, and with the white below less in extent and more smoky. Wing 70–75 mm., in one instance 76.

Habitat. Nepal, Sikkim, Assam, Burmese Hills, Chin, Kachin, and Shan States, Siam, Malay Peninsula, Borneo, etc.

There appear, however, to be two other well-marked races:

(3) **Hemichelidon sibirica gulmergi**, subsp. nov.

Type. In the British Museum. No. 94.8.13.13. ♀, Gulmerg, Kashmir. 1st July, 1893. Dr. Aitchison.

This form is intermediate between the two last, darker and more brown than in *H. s. sibirica*, lighter and more grey than in *H. s. caccabata*, with which it agrees in size. Wing 70–76 mm.

Habitat. N.W. India, Chitral, and Gilgit to Garwhal.

(4) **Hemichelidon sibirica rothschildi**, subsp. nov.

Type, ♂. In the British Museum. No. 1921.7.15.463. Lichiang Range, N.W. Yunnan. Forrest Coll.

Lord Rothschild has already called attention to the exceptionally deep colour of this race, and when the Yunnan birds are compared with long series of the other forms the difference is very striking.

Habitat. Yunnan.

In all these races the differences between the adults is accentuated in the young.

Colonel R. Meinertzhagen exhibited and described the following new species and subspecies:—

Pyrrhulauda eremodites, sp. nov.

This species is based on an unique specimen obtained near Aden on Jan. 15th, 1922. It is very different from anything either in the British Museum or at Tring, and appears to agree best with the genus *Pyrrhulauda*, being nearest to but larger then *Pyrrhulauda frontalis frontalis*. From this latter form it further differs in being less sandy on the back and in having darker centres to the feathers. In *P. f. frontalis* these dark centres to the feathers of the upper parts are confined to the head, whereas in *P. eremodites* the feathers of the back have distinct dark centres.

A much paler bird than *P. f. syncipitalis* (Blyth, Ibis, 1861, p. 183: Aden) and also lacks the mottling on the underparts of that race.

General description. Upper parts sandy isabelline as in *Ammomanes phœnicura arenicola*, especially on the wings, but with dark centres to the feathers of the back and crown. Neck with a streak leading from the lores to the side of the throat—in the nature of a moustache. Flanks of upper breast minutely streaked. Throat whitish, breast tinged with sandy colour, abdomen whitish. The outer two pairs of rectrices are almost black with yellowish tips and fringes. The third pair of rectrices are fulvous with a darker streak running up the centre and occupying about one-half of the

breadth of the feather. Remaining rectrices fulvous, except that the centre pair are sandy isabelline as in the upper tail-coverts.

Nostrils entirely covered with minute feathers, from which spring 9 major and several minor bristles which curve down towards the gape. Whitish eye-ring of minute feathers.

Shape of bill as in *Pyrrhulauda*.

Type. In the British Museum. Adult female, Sheikh Othman, Aden Protectorate, 15. i. 1922. Wing 86, culmen from its junction with skull 13, tail 45 mm.

Ammomanes deserti cheesmani, subsp. nov.

Darker on the back and head, and darker, more rufous underneath than *Ammomanes deserti fraterculus* from Palestine. Smaller bill than is ever found in *A. d. fraterculus*. A female in Mr. P. A. Buxton's collection from Kasr-i-Shirin on 24. xi. 1918 in West Persia is identical (wing 96, culmen 13 mm.). Two specimens collected by Capt. Pitman on the Shat-al-Adhaim (left bank of Tigris) show similar characteristics, but are slightly pinker owing to fresher plumage. Neither of these birds is sexed, both obtained in October : wings 103–105, culmen 14 mm.

Large series of *A. d. fraterculus, parvirostris*, and *iranica* examined.

I obtained specimens at Naft Khaneh (wing 96, culmen 12·5 mm.), just where the south-eastern end of the Jebel Hamrin touches the Iraq-Persian frontier, so, as far as we know, this race is confined to the country round Kasr-i-Shirin and the eastern parts of the Jebel Hamrin. Birds from Tekrit seem to be typical *A. d. fraterculus*, whilst a bird from Samarra, just north of Baghdad, seems to be intermediate between *A. d. fraterculus* and *A. d. cheesmani*.

This race is distinct from *A. d. parvirostris* or *iranica*, neither of which has the red underparts which characterise *A. d. cheesmani*.

Type. In the British Museum. No sex, Shatt-al-Adhaim, on the left bank of the Tigris, Mesopotamia, 16. x. 1917. Collected by Capt. C. R. Pitman.

Alectoris græca kurdestanicus, subsp. nov.

Above darker than *A. g. sinaica* or *veræ*. Crown much browner than in the latter race. Nape without any of the grey which is so characteristic of *A. g. veræ* from south-west Persia. Lacks the red-vinous colour of *A. g. cypriotes* from Palestine and Asia Minor. Nearest to *A. g. falki*, but paler. Underparts: the blue-grey of the upper breast is slightly darker than in *A. g. synaica* and *veræ*. Lacks the vinous wash on the breast of *A. g. cypriotes* and *falki*.

Three males and three females obtained at Dohuk in Southern Kurdestan on 12. xii. 1922. Wings of males 164–173 mm. and of females 160–164 mm.

Seven specimens of *A. g. veræ* from S.W. Persia and a large series of *A. g. sinaica* and *cypriotes* examined.

Type. In the Tring Museum, adult male, Dohuk, Southern Kurdestan, 12. xii. 1922.

Tchitrea viridis harterti, subsp. nov.

Identical with *T. viridis ferreti* from Southern Abyssinia, except for the noticeably larger bill—which character seems to only apply to males.

The bills of 7 males from Aden and Lahej measure 20 mm. or over from the junction of culmen and skull, whereas in 24 birds, all males, from Southern Abyssinia the bill is rarely 19 mm., and seldom exceeds 18 mm. Hartert (Novit. Zoolog. xxiv. 1917, p. 462) noted this difference, and I therefore name the race after him.

Type. In the Tring Museum. Adult male, 4000 feet, Wasil, Yemen, 25. ii. 1913, collected by Bury.

Pterocles senegalensis hindustan, nom. nov.

The Indian representative of *Pterocles senegalensis* was named *Pterocles exustus orientalis* by Hartert (Novit. Zoolog. 1900, p. 28: India), but later the same author (Vög. Pal. Fauna, ii. p. 1511) united the Indian birds with those from South-west Arabia, these latter having already been given the name *Pterocles senegalensis erlangeri*.

I have examined 7 males and 8 females of *P. s. erlangeri* in our own collection and a further pair in the British Museum, and find that the Arabian birds differ considerably from Indian specimens, a large series of which has been examined.

In the latter the upper parts are more ochraceous yellow, the yellow of the chin and throat being darker. The underparts are generally darker, the breast being yellower and not so pink as in *P. s. erlangeri*.

As already pointed out by Hartert, the name *orientalis* is preoccupied by *Tetrao orientalis*, L. I therefore propose the above name.

Type. In the British Museum. Adult male, Sambhar, Rajputana, India, 25. xii. 1869. Reg. no. 89. 5. 10. 130.

Col. Meinertzhagen also read the following description of a Chat, which he was unable to identify :—

I hesitate to give a name to a bird which may be an aberration, though it is difficult to say from which species of *Œnanthe* the present specimen varies. The specimen is a female and was obtained on 7. iv. 1923 in the Wadi Digla, near Helouan in Egypt. The wadi is a desolate spot, frequented by *Œnanthe lugens, leucopyga*, and *monacha*—in fact, the bird was shot within a few feet of a male *Œnanthe monacha*. It is certainly no variety of either of the above three Chats, and seems to more nearly approach *Œnanthe pleschanka* or *hispanica*. But *Œnanthe pleschanka* is almost unknown in Egypt and *Œnanthe hispanica* would never frequent such a desolate spot. It is possibly a hybrid, but even so it would be difficult to even guess at the parents.

Description. Upper parts sandy-yellow, much the same as in *Œnanthe deserti homochroa*, but not so pink. Ear-coverts darker, lores dark brown. Upper tail-coverts white. Wings dark brown. Axillaries black. Under part of edge of wing black with broad white fringes to the feathers. Underparts pale yellowish white with a darker sandy breast-band Central pair of rectrices dark brown with white bases 10 mm. long. Outer pair white with black terminal mark about

13 mm. long on the inner web and 31 mm. long on the outer web. Remaining rectices white with mere indications of a narrow terminal black band. Wing 87, culmen 14, and tail 56 mm.

Mr. David Bannerman described the following birds from the French Ivory Coast, West Africa :—

Apalis hardyi, sp. nov.

Adult. Entire upper parts grey, the mantle, back, and wing-coverts strongly washed with olive; quills dark brown, under wing-coverts white. Cheeks, sides of the neck, breast, and flanks grey; chin and throat deep buff-colour; middle of belly white. Bill black, extreme tip white; feet dark flesh-colour; iris brown.

Bill 11, wing 45, tarsus 17 mm.

Type. In the British Museum (No. 335). Bandama, Ivory Coast, 29th December, 1922. W. P. Lowe and H. R. Hardy colls.

This species is named in honour of Mr. H. R. Hardy.

Obs. This species is most nearly allied to *A. goslingi* Alex., which Boyd Alexander obtained on the Guruba River in the extreme north-east corner of the Belgian Congo. It may, when further specimens of each are available, have to be considered a race of that species, from which it differs in its greyer head, back strongly washed with olive, greyer underparts which lack the buff tinge on the breast of *A. goslingi*, deeper buff throat extending further on to the lower throat, and the whiter belly.

Smithornis capensis delacouri, subsp. nov.

Most nearly allied to *S. c. albigularis*, the race inhabiting N. Angola. It has the white throat of that form and the same amount of pale ochraceous on the under surface; the black streaks are, however, heavier and broader. The upperside is more heavily marked with black, and the feathers of the neck are grey with black centres, thus separating the black head and nape from the ochraceous

mantle—a character which is not found in either of the other two forms.

From *S. c. camerunensis*, inhabiting Cameroon, the nearest race geographically which lies between *S. a. albigularis* and *S. a. delacouri*, the new race is distinguished by having the ochraceous back less bright, in having the feathers at the base of the neck grey, the streaks on the under surface not so broad, the much broader white throat, and the lack of tawny yellow on the breast and flanks, these parts being only washed with buff. The bill is also smaller.

S. c. delacouri measures :—Bill from base 16, across base 13·5, wing 71, tail 51, tarsus 14 mm.

Soft parts : Bill, upper mandible black, lower white ; feet yellowish green ; iris brown.

Type. In the British Museum. Bandama, Ivory Coast, 29th December, 1922. W. P. Lowe and H. R. Hardy colls. (skin, No. 337).

This is the first occasion upon which this species has occurred in Upper Guinea. Named in honour of Mons. Jean Delacour, M.B.O.U.

Prodotiscus insignis flavodorsalis, subsp. nov.

Adult male. From *P. insignis insignis* (Cassin) distinguished by having the entire upper parts strongly washed with golden, brightest on the rump ; the underparts are lighter brown, faintly tinged with olive ; the middle feathers of the tail are black, not brown, and the wing is longer by 5 mm. and broadly margined on the primaries and secondaries with olive-yellow.

The type of *P. i. emini* (Shelley), described from Bellima in the N.E. Belgian Congo and generally supposed to be synonymous with *P. i. insignis*—though personally I doubt it,—is similar in size to the Ivory Coast bird, but is altogether duller in colouring and is much darker on the underside, without the white belly of the form here described.

Bill 8·5, wing 67, tail 46, tarsus 11·5 mm. Total length in the flesh 114 mm.

Bill black, iris dark brown, feet plumbeous.

Type. In the British Museum. ♂ ad, Béoumi, Ivory Coast (650 ft.), 21st November, 1922. W. P. Lowe and H. R. Hardy colls. (No. 34).

Obs. This is the first time the species has been obtained in Upper Guinea.

Phyllastrephus eburneus, sp. nov.

This new Bulbul seems to be most nearly allied to *P. poensis*. It closely resembles that species in the colouring of the upper parts, which are olive-brown rather than olive, washed with rufous, and becoming quite rust-coloured on the rump; upper tail-coverts and tail exactly the same as in *P. poensis*. The head is darker than the back, but is not so dark as in *P. poensis*. On the under surface the new species cannot be compared with *P. poensis*. It lacks the dark breast of that species, and is almost uniform greyish-olive, not unlike *Andropadus gracilirostris*, but much greener. The throat is very pale greenish-white, and the feathers of the throat and breast have very distinct white shaft-streaks; the flanks are brownish-olive and the under tail-coverts pale brown as in *P. poensis*, which species it also resembles in the colour of the under wing-coverts and quill-lining. The bill is rather heavier than *P. poensis*, less slender and broader at the base. The sexes are alike. Upper mandible black, lower bluish-white; feet plumbeous; iris hazel.

Bill 15, wings 75–83, tail 75, tarsus 21 mm.

Type. In the British Museum. Béoumi, Ivory Coast, 11th December, 1922. W. P. Lowe and H. R. Hardy colls. (No. 231).

Obs. I have recently worked through and separated into races the entire group of African Bulbuls in the British Museum, and cannot find anything resembling the bird here described, nor can I identify my specimens with any published description, though I fully realize the difficulty of naming members of the genus *Phyllastrephus* from literature. The bird listed in my "Birds of Southern Nigeria" (Rev. Zool. Afr. ix. p. 395) as *Phyllastrephus* (species uncertain) must be assigned to the species named above.

Mr. Bannerman then exhibited and described further new birds from the Cameroon-Nigerian highlands, which Mr. Bates had obtained during his last journey :—

Mirafra batesi, sp. nov.

Adult male. Crown of the head rufous-chestnut, each feather heavily streaked towards the tip with black, most heavily over the eyes; feathers of the nape rusty-buff, tipped with brown. General colour of the mantle and back rusty-buff, heavily streaked with blackish-brown, caused by the dark centres to all the feathers. Lesser wing-coverts dark brown, a chestnut mark down the shaft broadening towards the tip; greater coverts dark brown, margined with chestnut; primary-coverts reddish-chestnut, with dark shafts. Primaries greyish-black, margined on the outer web with chestnut; secondaries dark brown, margined with buff. Feathers of the rump blackish-brown, margined and tipped with rufous-buff. Tail blackish, the central pair broadly edged with chestnut, and the outer pair with the whole of the outer web light buff. Chin and throat buff. Rest of the underparts pale rusty-buff, the breast-feathers more rufous than the rest of the under surface and tipped with dark brown. Iris and feet light brown; bill blackish, whitish-horn beneath.

Bill 16, wing 92–94, tail 62, tarsus 25 mm.

Type. ♂ ad. No. 7378. Near Jos (south), 4000 ft., S. Nigeria. G. L. Bates coll.

Note.—This species must not be confused with *Mirafra stresemanni*, the richly-coloured rufous species described in this 'Bulletin,' specimens of which Mr. Bates obtained at Ngaundere (3700 ft.). Although *Mirafra batesi* inhabits the same sort of country as *M. stresemanni*, the intervening country is of an entirely different nature. The low-lying valley of the Benue River intervenes, and Mr. Bates is of opinion that the birds inhabiting the high Ngaundere plateau could not have any communication with those on the Jos-Ibi plateau 4000–4500 ft. in altitude.

I have much pleasure in naming this bird in honour of Mr. G. L. Bates.

Mirafra stresemanni, sp. nov.

Adult male. General colour of the upper parts rich deep cinnamon-rufous ; the crest-feathers, especially over each eye and on the nape, streaked with black. The feathers of the mantle have a black pear-shaped mark towards the tip. On the back and scapulars the black markings are much heavier, are bordered with reddish-chestnut, and fringed with buff. Rump blackish, each feather broadly fringed with reddish-chestnut. Primaries greyish-black, margined on two-thirds of the outer web from the base of each feather with deep chestnut. Outermost secondaries greyish-black, broadly margined on the outer web (except towards the tip, which is narrowly edged) with deep chestnut. Innermost secondaries black, becoming chestnut towards the tip, and fringed on both webs with buffish-chestnut. Tail black, the central pair broadly fringed on both webs with chestnut, the outer pair have the entire outer web buff, and the remainder of the tail-feathers are narrowly fringed—on the outer web only—with chestnut. Under surface chestnut-buff, the breast cinnamon-rufous, rather heavily spotted with black. Under tail-coverts have a narrow black streak along the shaft towards the tip.

Bill 16, wing 92, tail 63, tarsus 22 mm.

Iris pinkish-brown ; feet whitish-brown ; bill black above, whitish below.

Type. ♂ ad. 15 miles north of Ngaundere, 3700 ft., Adamawa, 3rd November, 1922 (No. 7064). G. L. Bates coll.

Obs. This species has nothing whatever to do with *Mirafra strümpelli* Reichw. I have sent a skin to Berlin, and Dr. Stresemann has kindly compared it with his large series of *M. strümpelli*—a much smaller bird, but from exactly the same type-locality.

Named in honour of Dr. E. Stresemann, without whose cordial assistance I should have been unable to identify numerous birds in the Cameroon collections.

Othyphantes baglafecht neumanni, subsp. nov.

Adult male. Similar to *O. baglafecht baglafecht* from Abyssinia, but the mantle and back are deeper and brighter green ; forehead not so yellow, paler, and with hardly any chestnut wash which is so apparent in birds from Abyssinia. The dirty-white belly is rather more sharply defined from the yellow of the chest, and there are more yellow feathers amongst the white in typical birds than in the specimens from Cameroon. The bill is somewhat longer in the new race.

Wings of eight males measure 80–84, and of four females 75–80 mm.

Type. ♂ ad. Banso Mountains, N. of Kumbo, 6000 feet, 23rd Sept., 1921 (No. 6359). G. L. Bates coll.

Obs. This is an interesting example of a species confined to a highland district turning up hundreds of miles from its known habitat without having been obtained anywhere in the intermediate neighbourhood. *O. b. baglafecht* is confined to the mountains of Abyssinia, and never descends much below 6000 feet. Mr. Bates found the race I have here described in the Banso Mountains, between 5500 feet and 6000 feet, on the Nigerian-Cameroon boundary, some 1700 miles as the crow flies from the type-locality of *O. b. baglafecht.*

Before naming this bird I have had to send specimens to Professor Neumann, who has been to considerable pains to compare the birds with specimens in various museums in Germany and Belgium. I name the bird in his honour, in grateful acknowledgment of the trouble he has taken on my behalf.

Lord Rothschild exhibited a Courser from Fuerteventura, and remarked as follows:—

Dr. Hartert, in his 'Vögel der palaearktischer Fauna,' p. 1526, No. 1872, described the Cape Verd Island Courser as a new race, under the name of *Cursorius gallicus exsul*, and gave the differences as the brighter and more reddish coloration of the sides of the head and breast, and he

united with it the Canary Island bird. On comparing the series of North African, Canary Island, and Cape Verd examples in the Tring and British Museums, Mr. Bannerman and I came to the conclusion that the Canary Island birds are also distinct. On the breast most of them, it is true, agree with *C. c. exsul*, but on the back they are certainly much more yellowish sand-colour. I propose the name of

Cursorius cursor bannermani

for this race. I append a short key to the four Palæarctic races of *Cursorius cursor* * :—

1.	Breast whitish or greyish sand-colour	2.
	Breast darker, more reddish	3.
2.	Breast whitish sand-colour; back slightly washed with grey	[*cursor.* *Cursorius cursor*
	Breast and back washed with grey	*C. c. bogulobovi.*
3.	Back yellowish sand-colour	*C. c. bannermani.*
	Back rufous sand-colour	*C. c. exsul.*

The distinct coloration of the plumage in the Canary Island examples is not seasonal, as can be seen by the series examined. Moreover, birds from N. Africa, the Canaries, and Cape Verd Islands, obtained at the same time of year, were compared with one another.

Mr. David Bannerman, in answer to a question, said that in his opinion the Canary Island Courser was resident in the Archipelago throughout the year. It was confined to the eastern islands of the Group and to very restricted areas in Gran Canaria and Tenerife. It undoubtedly bred in all of these islands, and there was no direct evidence of migration taking place between the Archipelago and the mainland.

* The name *cursor* given to the Courser by Latham in Gen. Synops. Bds., Suppl. i. 1787, p. 293, antedates Gmelin's old-established name *gallicus* by two years, and must therefore be used.

Sir Frederick Jackson forwarded the description of two new birds from Kenya Colony, which he proposed to name

Tricholæma lacrymosum narokensis, subsp. nov.

Most nearly allied to *T. lacrymosum lacrymosum*, but distinguished from that species by the much larger pear-shaped drops on the sides of the body, and the belly more strongly washed with sulphur-yellow. In size the new race is larger: wings measuring 72–74, as against 65–71 mm. in the typical form. Six skins were examined.

The Uganda race, *T. l. radcliffei*, is distinguished at a glance by the round instead of pear-shaped spots.

T. l. narokensis is restricted to Doinyo Narok, 4300–4500 feet, Kenya Colony.

The type has been presented to the British Museum. Doinyo Narok, 4500 feet, 9. iii. 06. F. J. Jackson coll.

Colius striatus marsabit, subsp. nov.

From *C. s. ugandensis* this race may be easily distinguished by the deeper chestnut of the underparts and by the greyer (less brown) colouring of the upper parts.

The bird is confined, apparently, to a limited area, the nine skins in my collection having all come from Marsabit (4000 ft.), an isolated extinct volcano in Kenya Colony.

The type has been presented to the British Museum. ♂ ad. Marsabit, 4000 feet, 1. ix. 09. F. J. Jackson coll.

In company with Mr. Bannerman I have carefully considered the validity of *C. s. kikuyuensis* van Someren, and we both agree with the conclusions expressed by Dr. H. Granvik (J. f. O. 1923, p. 95). We cannot see the slightest difference between *C. s. ugandensis* and *C. s. kikuyuensis*. Dr. van Someren's *C. macrourus griseogularis* is, on the other hand, a well-established form, the differences being clearly visible in the specimens in my collection.

Mr. J. D. La Touche sent the following notes and descriptions :—

Père David, in 'Les Oiseaux de la Chine,' after describing the "*Dumeticola affinis*" procured by him at Moupin, remarks (pp. 247, 248) as follows :—"Un oiseau tout à fait analogue se rencontre également en été dans les endroits herbeux et humides aux environs de Pékin, mais se distingue constamment de celui-ci : 1°, par sa taille plus faible de 0^{m},02 ; 2°, par la teinte de ses joues et de sa poitrine qui sont à peine lavées de gris cendré ; 3°, par les taches plus nombreuses et plus arrondies du devant de son cou ; 4°, par sa raie sourcilière à peine marquée."

Two adult male specimens of a small *Tribura*, shot by me on 31 May and 1 June, 1917, at Chinwangtao, N E. Chihli, in North China, and, together with a young bird obtained in the same locality on 4th September, 1912, erroneously recorded by me as *Tribura thoracica* (Blyth) (Ibis, 1920, p. 650), agree exactly with Père David's diagnosis of the Peking birds. On comparing these birds with a couple of examples of *T. thoracica* from Sikhim from the Ball collection in the National Museum in Dublin, I find well-marked differences in colour, in size, and in wing-formula. I would therefore propose to separate the North China bird as

Tribura thoracica davidi, subsp. nov.

Adult male differs from *Tribura thoracica* (Blyth) in its smaller size, small first primary as compared with length of second primary, and much paler underparts, the throat being of a greyish white and the head just tinged with brownish grey—not "ashy-brown" and "ashy," as described in 'Fauna of India' (Birds, vol. i. p. 364, 1st ed.). Iris rather pale brown, bill black, mouth pink, legs flesh-coloured. Measurements of two adult males :—Culmen 11 mm. ; wing 53 mm. ; tail 45, 46 mm. ; tarsus 18 mm. ; total length 128, 133 mm. The young autumn male measures :—wing 52 mm. ; tail 49 mm. ; total length 132 mm. The first primary is considerably shorter than half of the second and measures 13 mm.,

the 2nd primary equals the 8th, 3rd and 4th equal and longest, 5th just a shade shorter.

Type, ♂. Chinwangtao, N.E. Chihli, China, 1 June, 1917,

Tribura melanorhyncha (Rickett)

is a resident bird in North and Central Fohkien. It has a grey breast with but a few spots in the summer plumage and entirely different proportions. The bill is stout, blackish in winter, black in summer. Culmen 11 mm.; wing 51, 52 mm.; tail 58–63 (much worn); tarsus 18 mm. The first primary is about half of the second, which latter is much shorter than the 10th, the 5th is slightly longer than 3rd, 4th, and 6th.

Doctor Hartert has united this bird with *Tribura thoracica* (Blyth), but I believe that he is now inclined to consider the Chinese bird distinct.

Tribura luteiventris, Hodgson.

Tribura russula (Slater) apparently is but *Homochlamys brevipennis* (Verreaux) and is now lumped with *Tribura luteiventris*, Hodgs., by Dr. Hartert and other authorities. I would, however, state that the colour of the soft parts and the proportions of the Fohkien birds do not agree with those given by Hartert or by Oates in the 'Fauna of India' (Birds, vol. i. p. 365, 1st ed.). The notes taken by me on fresh-shot specimens are as follows:—Iris dark greyish brown, upper mandible and point of lower mandible blackish; lower mandible and sides of upper mandible pink, lower mandible becoming yellow towards the gape; legs pink.

The proportions of six specimens of *Tribura russula* (Slater), including co-type, in my collection are:—Culmen 10 mm. (bill very fine); wing 50–53·5 mm.; tail 56–60 mm.; tarsus 18–20 mm.; total length 143–150. First primary 14–15 mm., in two cases equal to half of second, in four cases under half of second; second primary equals 10th, 3rd, 4th, and 5th longest, the 3rd and 5th equal, the 4th a trifle longer.

Mr. H. Kirke Swann exhibited a new Goshawk from Japan on behalf of Dr. Hartert and himself, and made the following remarks :—

When Dr. Hartert and I were examining the Palæarctic Goshawks at Tring a few weeks ago for his paper in the forthcoming number of 'The Ibis,' we noticed two skins from Japan which did not agree with any known race, and considered it necessary to lay them aside for further examination. No adult bird from Japan exists in the British Museum collection, but, after examining the four immature birds there, we feel that the Japanese bird is distinct and has hitherto been overlooked or confused with *A. g. schvedowi*, owing to the lack of adult skins. We therefore propose to call it

Astur gentilis fujiyamæ, subsp. nov.

Type. In the Tring Museum. Ad. ♂, Sagami-no-kuni, Japan. A. Owston coll.

This is the smallest known form of *Astur gentilis*, and differs from *A. g. gentilis* in being very much smaller and blacker above; from *A. g. schvedowi* in being appreciably smaller and very much darker, more blackish above, and rather more heavily barred below. It most resembles in size and dark coloration *A. g. arrigonii* of Sardinia.

Measurements.—*A. g. fujiyamæ*: ad. ♂ type, in collection of the Tring Mus., wing 280 mm.; ad. ♂ (?), marked ♀, Shimosake, Japan, Tring Mus., wing 300 mm.; ♂ immature, Yokohama, Brit. Mus., wing 289 mm.; 3 ♀, immature, Hakodadi and Yokohama, Brit. Mus., wing 323, 337, 339 mm. *A. g. schvedowi*: wing, ♂ 300–323 mm., ♀ 340–359 mm. *A. g. gentilis*, typical form: wing, ♂ 315–334 mm., ♀ 358–380 mm. *A. g. arrigonii*: wing, ♂ 292–305 mm., ♀ 335–345 mm.

Dr. P. H. Manson-Bahr exhibited on behalf Mr. E. Huntley, of Crockham Hill, Kent, an abnormal Whitethroat *

* *Editor's Note*:—A very interesting paper by Mr. J. P. Burkitt, in which attention was called to the singing of mateless Whitethroats and to their building of a series of cock-nests, appeared in 'The Irish Naturalist,' vol. xxx. (1921).

(*S. communis*), which during life exhibited certain characteristics distinguishing it from other birds of the same species :—

In the middle of May 1921, a cock Whitethroat appeared in a certain hawthorn-bush on Crockham Hill Common. Mr. Huntley's attention was first drawn to the bird by its peculiar trilling note whilst listening for a Grasshopper Warbler—a bird with which he was not familiar. Not only the song, but the behaviour of the bird whilst so engaged was quite distinct from the ordinary Whitethroat.

In 1921 it built three nests, but did not find a mate. In 1922 it returned at the end of April to a spot within 100 yards of its haunt the year before, and it sang the same song. In the middle of May it built the nest exhibited, and in its construction employed a considerable amount of willow catkin down and sat upon the nest for 14 days, during which period it was very tame and could be captured on the nest.

In 1923 it reappeared in the same spot about the 7th of April, and on the 15th of May commenced to build the nest exhibited in blackberry-bramble, within 10 yards of the 1922 nest ; it had not completed the same by June 7th. During these three years it was never seen to associate with any other Whitethroat, but was extremely pugnacious to birds of other species. Whilst singing, the bird soared in the air like a Common Whitethroat, but did not raise its crest, though it puffed out its throat. The song itself was peculiar and arresting, being quite unlike that of the Common, but more like that of the Lesser Whitethroat. It commenced with syllables which can be interpreted as "Tyar" in an ascending scale, breaking off into a trill which lasted as long as 40 seconds. The second half of the song greatly resembled that of the lesser species. The alarm-notes might be construed as "Tek-tek-tek," quite distinct from the hoarse guttural note of the brooding Whitethroat.

In general appearance the bird when alive appeared plumper, the head darker, and the breast pinker than the normal bird. The bird could invariably be no longer found after July 7th.

On examination the bird, as compared with a normal specimen procured on the same date, showed considerable diminution in size of the testes and, on the whole, smaller measurements.

The tail especially (2·18 ins.) is considerably shorter than the average (2·52) given by Dresser.

Mr. H. Munt exhibited two eggs of Baudin's Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudini*), collected by L. Orton on 28th August, 1921, at Petworth Park, Moora. The nest was in the hollow of a dead gum-tree, 45 feet from the ground.

The Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain exhibited an egg of the Maroccan Guinea-Fowl (*Numida sabyi*) from a clutch of six eggs taken in April 1916 by Dr. Jacques near Oulmès, in Marocco, which passed into the possession of M. J. de Chavigny, from whom Mr. Jourdain received the egg now shown. The egg is a typical Guinea-fowl's, strong-shelled and glossy, measuring 51·8 × 38·6 mm. It is remarkable that this species is still only represented by the one type-skin in the Tring Museum and one clutch of eggs, and those in the Museums of Paris, Grenoble and Rabat.

Mr. J. D. La Touche also sent the following descriptions:—

The following birds lately received from Mr. E. P. Laurente, of Szemao in South Yunnan, are apparently undescribed. I am deeply indebted to Dr. P. R. Lowe and Mr. Thomas Wells of the British Museum for very kindly comparing these and a number of other Yunnan birds with the series in the Natural History Museum and reporting on them. I further take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Buckley, Acting Director of the Dublin Museum, and Mr. Nicholls in charge of the Birds in that Museum for their kindness in allowing me access to the Museum collections.

Elachura laurentei, sp. nov.

This fine Wren is nearest to *E. formosa*, but differs in being very dark all over and in the different style of markings of the underparts. The upper parts and head are very dark

brown, obscurely barred on the scapulars and back with dark rufous, and sparsely marked with buffish-white specks. Wing-coverts and tertiaries dark rufous-chestnut, waved, barred, or mottled with black; primaries and secondaries barred evenly with paler rufous-chestnut and black; upper tail-coverts and tail dark rufous-chestnut, barred or waved with black. *Chin, throat, and breast blackish-brown*, the centres of the feathers with arrow-shaped whitish spots. Rest of underparts very dark brown, waved and stippled with dull buff and with a dull white spot occupying centres of feathers. Wing 45 mm., culmen 12 mm., tail 33 mm., tarsus about 18 mm. At first glance this bird might appear to be a melanized or possibly a young specimen of *E. formosa*, the young of which does not appear to be known, as the markings of the upper parts are in the same style. The underparts, however, are entirely different and the proportions do not agree. The bill of *E. laurentei* is broader at the base, more carinate, and longer; the hind claws are also larger.

Type (and only specimen, not sexed). Mahuangpu, S.E. Yunnan, Tongking border, 13th July, 1921.

Pomatorhinus ruficollis albipectus, subsp. nov.

Upper parts somewhat like *P. r. styani*, but hind neck not rufous-chestnut but rather pale chestnut. Superciliary stripe long and very pure white. Chin, throat, and breast pure white (the breast faintly marked in two examples, and well streaked in another, with pale olive-brown), centre of abdomen to vent white, rest of underparts pale olive-brown. Bill bright yellow with base of culmen dusky (dry state). Culmen 19·5–21 mm., wing 81–84 mm., tail 84–92 mm., tarsus 28–29 mm. (3 examples examined).

Type, ♂. Szemao, S. Yunnan, 1st Jan., 1923.

Mesia argentauris ricketti, subsp. nov.

Differs from *M. a. argentauris* in having the back and wing-coverts olive-green (not slate) and in the colour of the underparts, the chin and throat being bright yellow largely washed with scarlet, abdomen deep yellow, and flanks bright

yellow-green. It resembles *M. a. cunhæi* Kloss, of Annam, in its bright colouring, but the forehead is as in *M. argentauris* typ. and the red patch at base of quills is not prolonged along the edge of the secondaries. Wing 78, 79 mm. (two males).

Type, ♂. Szemao, S. Yunnan, 23rd Jan., 1923.

Ægithina tiphia styani, subsp. nov.

Nearest to *Æ. t. tiphia*, but with much longer bill, wings, and tail. The green and yellow colouring is very bright as compared with Indo-Chinese birds. Culmen 15 mm, wing 70, 71 mm., tail 57, 63 mm., tarsus 19 mm. (two immature males in winter dress).

Type (♂). South Yunnan (Szemao?), not labelled.

Mr. T. Wells described the following new form of Barbet :

Cyanops davisoni laurentii.

Adult. Nearly allied to *C. d. davisoni* (Hume), but duller above. It differs in lacking the green spot in front of the eye, in having a longer wing, 101–105 mm. (in *C. d. davisoni* the wing measures 95–100 mm.), and in having a shorter stouter bill.

Type. In the British Museum. ♀ ad., Yuen Chang, Yunnan. F. W. Styan Coll., 1914.4.8.9.

Named in honour of Mr. E. P. Laurente, who collected so many birds for Mr. La Touche around Mengtze.

Dr. Percy Lowe communicated the following :—

Atlantisia, gen. nov.

Characters. Bill shorter than head, slender, compressed ; upper mandible decurved; gonys upcurved, so that bill viewed laterally has a dertrum-like ending very similar to what obtains in a plover or pigeon. Nasal groove extending beyond middle of bill. Nostrils linear, basal, parallel with lower edge of upper mandible, overhung by operculum. Culmen decidedly shorter than middle toe with claw. No frontal shield.

Tarsus shorter than middle toe with claw ; hind toe with claw half as long as tarsus ; tarsus and toes distinctly slender.

Wings little developed, apparently incapable of sustaining flight; primaries soft-vaned, weak; hamuli present, but apparently not functioning; first primary shortest; secondaries still less developed; coverts very long, nearly as long as secondaries.

Rectrices—central, as long as middle toe with claw; all rectrices weak and loose vaned; rami discontinuous. Oil-gland tufted.

Coloration. Ralline.

Type, *Atlantisia rogersi.*

Distribution. Inaccessible Island, S. Atlantic.

Atlantisia rogersi, sp. nov.

Adult. Whole of upperside nearly uniform dark umber-brown; forehead, vertex, lores, and sides of face dark slaty-black; occipital and nuchal region washed with umber-brown and gradually merging into umber-brown of upper parts; flanks dark slaty-black, nearly black, faintly barred with whitish; chin, fore neck, pectoral region grey; abdomen grey, feathers fringed with buff; under tail-coverts black, fringed with buff.

Wings: remiges blackish-grey, faintly washed on outer border with buffish; coverts and scapulars darker, washed with umber on edges and tips and barred with buffy-white.

Bill, legs, and feet (in dried skin) dark horn.

Type, adult (not sexed). No. 1923.7.8.1 in the British Museum. Inacessible Island, S. Atlantic, 1923.

Exposed culmen 18·5, tarsus 22, middle toe with claw 30, wing 55, tail 30 mm.

Named in honour of the Rev. H. M. C. Rogers, Resident Chaplain on Tristan d'Acunha.

Obs. On the occasion of the visit of the Shackleton-Rowett Expedition to the Tristan d'Acunha group, Mr. Wilkins, naturalist on board the 'Quest,' was unable to procure skins of the "Island Hen" on Inacessible Island. He left collecting-material with Mr. Rogers and a request that he would get the islanders to procure examples when opportunity offered.

On July 5th of this year two skins arrived at the British Museum, and have proved to be most interesting.

The above is a brief preliminary description, and I hope to write a fuller account very shortly. In the meantime, our best thanks are due to Mr. Rogers for his successful efforts in the cause of science. Unfortunately, the bodies of the birds were not preserved, so that not even the humeri are available for relative measurements. It will be noticed that this diminutive flightless Rail, *Atlantisia rogersi*, has not even a generic affinity with *Porphyriornis nesiotis*.

The next Meeting of the B. O. C. will be held on Wednesday, the 10th of October, 1923, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, the Dinner at 7 p.m. Members intending to dine are requested to inform the Hon. Secretary, Mr. C. W. Mackworth-Praed, Natural History Museum, S.W. 7.

[N.B.—Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice *beforehand* to the Editor at Nat. Hist. Museum, South Kensington, and to place in his hands *not later than at the meeting* MSS. for publication in the Bulletin.]

(Signed)

W. L. Sclater, *Chairman.*

Percy R. Lowe, *Editor.*

C. W. Mackworth-Praed, *Hon. Sec. & Treas.*

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ERRATA.

Page 18, line 11, for *A. c. stevensoni* read *stevensi.*

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